



No. 65,466

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1996

30P

Lotto fever

Roll up for the
£33 million roll-over
10,000 tickets
to be won

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Fashion leaders
forecast the
must-have looks

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Critics' choice

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the hottest
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Back to the grid

Jackie Stewart returns
to Formula One

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Million homes cut off for two nights

Inquiry into why water supply failed

BY ANDREW PIERCE AND KATE ALDERSON

WATER companies were ordered yesterday to explain why up to a million households were left without supplies for a second night.

With the Army on standby in the worst-hit areas of the North East and Scotland, people queued for up to an hour to fill bottles and buckets from emergency tankers and bowsers. Hospitals cancelled operations and many schools may not be able to start the new term on time next week.

Water officials admitted that there was a crisis with reservoirs in danger of drying up as millions of gallons drained away through fractured pipes and mains. One Scottish director urged companies not to reopen after the holiday today and appealed to people "to go dry".

Ofwat, the industry regulator, has written to all companies demanding an explanation of what has happened and telling them to look at how water authorities overseas manage their supplies. Customers are entitled to £10 for every day they are cut off, so the compensation bill could be huge. "They will not be able to pass on the cost of this to the customers. That is the bottom line," Ofwat said.

The companies have been widely criticised since privatisation for not doing enough to improve their infrastructure. But the present problems are, in part, due to a new pipe-laying programme. The severe frost and rapid thaw caused small mains pipes to twist and break as the ground first expanded and then suddenly

contracted. The plastic pipes that had recently replaced leaky cast iron ones proved more vulnerable because they had not bedded in, so the twisting effect of the "ground shift" was exaggerated.

But Canadian experts said that much of the damage could have been avoided had the pipes been laid 5 ft rather than 3 ft below the frost line. The companies, however, defended their record saying they had teams in place all over Christmas to try to minimise any problems for customers. Even so, they and Ofwat have been bombarded with complaints from people who were cut off without warning and about inadequate emergency supplies.

Tyneside and Wearside were worst affected, and 250,000 people had to take to the streets to collect their water. Ashington and Newbiggin in Northumberland were cut off for the second day running, forcing two hospitals to cancel operations and give patients bottled water to drink. Staff had to carry water to wards on upper floors because of a drop in pressure.

In Ashington, which has a population of about 27,000, the 550-gallon tanks offering emergency supplies were rapidly emptied and scuffles and arguments were reported over how much each person should take. Thomas Shill, 62, queued for an hour only to find the tank was empty. "I have no idea when the next tank will arrive and I'm furious," he said. "My water

was off for more than 24 hours and no one can tell me when it will be back on."

Northumbrian Water said that people should not expect supplies to return for at least 24 hours and urged them not to hoard water from the emergency tanks. A spokesman said that as soon as containers were emptied they were returned to reservoir and refilled.

That did not satisfy a group of Labour MPs, however, who wrote to the Environment Secretary to demand a public inquiry into the shortfall.

In the Strathclyde region of Scotland, more than half a million homes suffered burst pipes and a fleet of eight large tankers and 200 smaller ones were used to deliver supplies.

Territorial Army tankers moved into parts of Scotland yesterday, but the help was limited and the three regions worst affected — Strathclyde, Lothian and Grampian — said they had no plans to take up the Government's offer of full-scale military help.

Gus Ferguson, director of water in Lothian, appealed to big firms not to reopen today after Hogmanay as supplies to reservoirs from Loch Lomond were dangerously low. "They may start up, run for a day and find there is no water. Their reaction has not been very good — great displeasure might be the message."

Mr Ferguson also urged people to minimise demand at home: "Our message is 'Go dirty for a couple of days'."

Inspector Tony Parker, a member of Scotland Yard's Royal and Diplomatic Squad, was found in considerable pain by a guide and the Prince who stayed with him until a helicopter arrived to fly him to hospital.

Inspector Parker, who has

protected the heir to the throne for more than 12 years, later had an emergency operation at Davos Hospital, eight miles

away, to insert a hip screw.

The Prince, who has been plagued by "the curse of Klosters" since his friend, Major Hugh Lindsay, a former equerry to the Queen, was killed in an avalanche at the resort in 1988, telephoned the injured officer's wife, Angela, in London to explain what had happened. He was said to be "deeply upset".

Inspector Parker, described as an accomplished skier, was the Prince's main skiing bodyguard. He was made a member of the Royal Victorian Order in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1993.

Although other officers are

accompanying the party, which includes Prince William

The Prince of Wales with Prince William, right, and Prince Harry on the slopes above the resort of Klosters before yesterday's accident

Bodyguard hurt in 'curse of Klosters' fall

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE Prince of Wales's principal bodyguard fell and broke his leg on an alpine ski run at Klosters in Switzerland yesterday while protecting the royal party during their skiing holiday.

Inspector Tony Parker, a member of Scotland Yard's Royal and Diplomatic Squad, was found in considerable pain by a guide and the Prince who stayed with him until a helicopter arrived to fly him to hospital.

Inspector Parker, described as an accomplished skier, was the Prince's main skiing bodyguard. He was made a member of the Royal Victorian Order in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in June 1993.

Although other officers are

accompanying the party, which includes Prince William



Parker: leg broken

and Prince Harry, a replacement personal protection officer was expected to be flown to Switzerland.

At no time, it was

emphasised last night, was the security of the Prince or his sons jeopardised by the accident, which happened on the first full day of the holiday.

Prince William, 13, and Prince Harry, 11, witnessed the drama. The party intends to go ahead with a full programme of skiing.

Inspector Parker was skiing ahead of the royal party when the accident happened at 10pm. He was on the bottom quarter of the Schwimmboden run on the Madrisa mountain, where ice was turning to slush, leaving rocks exposed.

No-one witnessed the fall but it is thought Inspector Parker may have hit a rock. His right femur was broken

near the hip. He was skiing ahead in ensure that the run was clear and safe.

Bruno Sprecher, a ski guide, followed closely by the Prince, discovered Inspector Parker, who was conscious, and the Swiss police called a helicopter. The inspector, who is in his forties, is expected to be in hospital for at least ten days.

A royal spokesman said: "Skiing is potentially a dangerous pursuit. The Prince accepts that accidents will happen but this will not stop him or his children skiing."

Later, Prince William witnessed a second accident when a skier, thought to be a boy, fell and appeared to have an epileptic fit.

British Gas compensates cold clients

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

BRITISH GAS is to compensate thousands of customers left without heating after it failed to repair systems covered by its service agreements. The company has started to recruit contract workers to cope with the backlog of central heating repairs.

The cold weather brought a spate of complaints from the three million customers with the Three Star service contracts, which cost as much as £104 a year, when their systems broke down and no engineering help was sent within the 24 hours promised by the contracts.

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US Embassy stops paying staff

BY MARTIN FLETCHER AND EMMA WILKINS

THE waves from America's budget crisis have crossed the Atlantic. More than 300 British employees at the American Embassy in London are working gratis for Uncle Sam because the Grosvenor Square mission has run out of money to pay them.

William Crowe, the ambassador, no longer has any funds for official entertaining. Diplomats can no longer buy their British contacts lunch at Washington's expense. Lowly officials, British or American, who need to take taxis across London must pay the fares themselves because the embassy has no petty cash.

This state of affairs is the result of the partial government shutdown 3,000 miles away in Washington that has lasted a record 19 days as President Clinton and Congress haggle over Republican plans to cut federal spending.

About 280,000 non-essential workers have been laid off while

temporarily, but British law does not recognise such "furloughs". That means that every British employee at the Embassy and at the American consulate in Edinburgh and Belfast is having to work as normal.

Tomorrow they and their American counterparts will be paid for the weeks before the December 15 shutdown, but not the week after, and unless the crisis is resolved by January 18 they will not receive their next fortnightly cheque. They have no guarantee they will be reimbursed eventually, but every politician in Washington assures them that they will be.

There are 380 Britons among the London Embassy's 650 staff and one official acknowledged last night that the British employees were distressed and disappointed. "They are a sophisticated bunch and understand the dynamics of this, but that does

not help pay next week's mortgage."

It is also the second time in a year that they have faced financial hardship. Last summer the Inland Revenue found that the Embassy had been under-reporting employees' salaries for the past 30 years and demanded £3 million in back taxes. Admiral Crowe saved the day by persuading

the State Department to foot the bill.

London staff said yesterday that uncertainty over their pay had led to stress among workers and low morale.

David Peterson, a senior commercial officer, took up his post in London two months ago but is still meeting repayments on a mortgage on his house in Atlanta. "It is a very difficult and strenuous situation for everyone. Creditors do not take account of the fact that you have not had a pay cheque," he said.

Although he has worked for

the Government off and on since 1961, Mr Peterson has

never experienced problems with salaries before.

"Some of my colleagues tell me that this is the fourth time this has happened, but it has never gone on for such a long time."

The London Embassy is not unique in its penury: every American diplomatic mission

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Continued on page 2, col 3

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Continued on page 2, col 3

Government urged to suspend Sinn Fein talks after seventh shooting

Peace in jeopardy as Mayhew links IRA to killings

By NICHOLAS WATT, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT, AND JOHN HICKS

THE Northern Ireland peace process faced its gravest crisis last night after Sir Patrick Mayhew linked the IRA to the murder of seven alleged drugs dealers since April.

As moderate nationalists gave warning that IRA hardliners were trying to break the ceasefire, the Ulster Unionists called on the Government to suspend its talks with Sinn Fein.

John Taylor, deputy leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, said that Sir Patrick, the Northern Ireland Secretary, must take action because loyalists could be the next targets of the IRA gunmen.

The latest alleged drugs dealer to be killed was shot by the IRA in the early hours of yesterday. Ian Lyons, 31, a Roman Catholic, was shot in the chest by two men as he sat in a car with his girlfriend outside her parents' home in Lurgan, Co Armagh. The attackers, who used pump-action shotguns at close-range, fled on foot.

Relatives of Mr Lyons, who had a son, Nathan, 2, last night denied he had any links with drugs. Pauline Forker, his sister, said: "What gives these cowards the right to murder in cold blood an innocent man who was young and energetic and highly thought of on both sides of the community, just to cover up their own illicit dealings?"

Direct Action Against Drugs said yesterday it had carried out the shooting. Sir Patrick said, however, that the RUC was "pretty convinced" the murder was the work of the IRA. In a BBC Television interview, he said the murder was "not compatible with a

commitment to peaceful methods, to democratic methods. It casts great doubt, therefore, on whether Sinn Fein, who are inextricably linked with the IRA, are themselves committed to peaceful methods."

"Only parties who are committed to peaceful and democratic methods can, of course, expect to sit down and negotiate about the future of Northern Ireland."

Sir Patrick conceded that the killings could jeopardise the Government's plans to hold all-party talks in Northern Ireland. He challenged Sinn Fein to condemn the murders and ridiculed the party's claim that it had no influence over the IRA.

The Ulster Unionists endorsed Sir Patrick's comments, and said he should no longer talk to Sinn Fein while the IRA was using violence. Mr Taylor, MP for Strangford, said: "The Government should not be talking with those who are breaking the ceasefire."

Cardinal Daly described the killings as repulsive and said they were jeopardising the peace process. "Is [Gerry Adams] being undermined from within his own organisation? Time will tell, but time is running out for the peace process."

Mr Mallon, MP for Newry and South Armagh, said he believed the peace process would hold, but added: "There are those within the IRA and other paramilitary organisations who are trying to break that peace, and the way they're doing it is this awful use of violence — public execution in the [latest] instance and in [the] others in Belfast."

Mr Mallon called on the Sinn Fein leadership to condemn and disown the murders. "There can be no hiding



Ian Lyons, shot by the anti-drugs group thought to be an IRA cover, with his son

place for the public representatives regarding these types of assaults. They are going to have to realise that you cannot have this millstone of awful sordid violence hanging round your neck when in effect you are part of the ceasefire.

Sinn Fein said there was not "an iota of evidence" to link the killings to the IRA. Mitchell McLaughlin, chairman of Sinn Fein, said no political party could condone such actions. "These tragedies have to be brought to an end as quickly as possible."

Despite Mr McLaughlin's comments, security sources in Northern Ireland were in no doubt that the killings had been sanctioned by the IRA

leadership. One said that the IRA has increased its attacks on alleged drugs dealers because the terrorists feared they were losing their grip on nationalist areas in the light of the ceasefire.

Some observers in Belfast believe that the shootings are a way of letting off steam among IRA activists, who are frustrated at the slow pace of the peace process. The tactic is highly dangerous, however, because if the IRA attacked loyalist drug dealers, Protestant paramilitaries would waste little time in retaliating.

Ministers believe that the peace process is facing a delicate phase in the run-up to the publication later this month of the report by the

former US Senator George Mitchell, head of the body which is examining decommissioning of terrorist arms.

The Government will seize the initiative later month with the publication of a White Paper on the future of the RUC. The paper will address nationalist concerns that the RUC is too closely identified with the Unionists.

□ The RUC was investigating the death of a man whose body was found on the outskirts of a village yesterday. Paul McGleenan, 20, of Keady, Co Armagh, is thought to have been involved in a fight in the pub the previous evening.

Kevin Myers, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Mayhew: said killing incompatible with peace



Ashdown rules out defector's by-election plan

By NICHOLAS WOOD
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PADDY ASHDOWN last night asserted his authority over Emma Nicholson after the Liberal Democrats' latest recruit floated the possibility of a by-election in her Devon West and Torridge seat. The party leader's aides intervened swiftly to stonewall such speculation after the Tory defector had said that if her constituents wanted a by-election, she would be happy to oblige.

Speaking in a BBC radio phone-in, she said: "I would be perfectly comfortable to have a by-election. Of course, what would happen would be an overwhelming majority, unbelievable, right up in the stratosphere, for the Liberal Democrats, for whom I would

be standing. I think it is a real waste of public funds. However, if sufficient of my electorate come up to me and say 'come on, let's have a by-election', I will go straight to Paddy Ashdown and discuss it with him."

But Mr Ashdown's aides also poured cold water on the prospects of a poll in the West Country seat, where, as the Conservative candidate, Miss Nicholson had a 3,614 majority at the 1992 election. "We don't feel any compunction to go down that route," one senior official said.

Senior Liberal Democrats said that the party wanted to concentrate on other tasks, such as the two by-elections pending in Hemsworth and Staffordshire South East, the May local elections, and the approaching general election. Leadership sources

added that voters, by and large, did not appreciate "unnecessary elections".

But the Tory leadership was in fighting mood yesterday, with Roger Freeman, the Public Service Minister, challenging Mr Ashdown to call a by-election and Brian Mawhinney, the Tory party chairman, telling colleagues that he believed it was the "only honourable course" to take.

Harry Greenway, Tory MP for Ealing North, said: "Given that the whole thrust of Emma Nicholson's defection was that she was taking a moral stand, she should now go all the way and quit. She now has a moral obligation more than most to resign her seat."

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader, will today hold a press conference in Tory-held Staffordshire South East

during a visit to prepare the local party machine for a March by-election, which seems likely to cut the Government's majority further.

The parliamentary arithmetic means that John Major will become increasingly dependent on Ulster Unionist support, particularly if he loses his Commons majority later in the year.

John Taylor, the deputy leader of the Unionists, caused fresh tremors in Tory ranks yesterday by saying that his party could "easily" refuse to back the Government in a vote of confidence, the loss of which would precipitate a general election. But senior ministers doubt that the Unionists would carry out the threat.

Simon Jenkins, page 16



Nicholson: comfortable to have a fresh poll

Lyell and Waldegrave will fight resignation calls on Scott report

■ The long-awaited Scott report into the arms-to-Iraq affair is expected to be severely critical of ministers. Philip Webster reports

the Government. Their interpretation of the way the PII system had operated over a lengthy period was that he was that he should do what he did.

The argument of other senior lawyers that he had no authority for his actions is fiercely resisted by Sir Nicholas. The key advice to him came from the First Junior Treasury Counsel at the time, Sir John Laws, now Lord Justice Laws.

A ministerial colleague of Sir Nicholas said yesterday: "Scott may criticise the PII system but there is clearly no open-and-shut case against Nick Lyell for the way he interpreted it. He acted in good faith."

"Surely the only case for a resignation would have been if he had acted in bad faith or incompetently. Neither is true. He is one of the most conscientious men in the Government."

Another said: "He will be courteous but firm and clear if Scott criticises him. He believes that he acted properly."

Mr Waldegrave has launched a strong counter-attack since leaks last June of early drafts of Sir Richard's report.

Sir Richard's report suggested that he was likely to be accused of misleading Parliament when a Foreign Office minister because he had not disclosed that guidelines governing the sale of arms to Iraq had been relaxed.

Whitehall sources have disclosed that Mr Waldegrave has since submitted a lengthy statement to the inquiry in which he has argued strongly that the guidelines were not changed and that he therefore

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School inspections may be less frequent

The Government is preparing to abandon its commitment to inspect all schools at least once every four years. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, has been asked to draw up plans by the end of the month for a "more targeted" approach to inspections. Ministers want Ofsted, the school inspection agency, to complete the first four-year cycle of assessments of all 24,000 schools in England, which began in September 1993. However, it will then be asked to concentrate on schools that need to improve. Less in-depth or less frequent visits to schools with glowing reports could bring big savings on the estimated £37 million expenditure in 1996-97.

Ofsted's assessment of primary schools has fallen well behind schedule because of a shortage of freelance inspectors. Ofsted has just recruited a second batch of 150 short-term inspectors.

The National Union of Teachers welcomed the move to review inspections but called for any savings to be channelled back into advice and support for schools.

Sixty prison suicides

Prison reformers blamed the Home Secretary for the high annual rate of suicides in the country's jails. Sixty people committed suicide in prisons in England and Wales during 1995, according to the Howard League. This was one fewer than the record number in the previous year. The league condemned Michael Howard for "irresponsible over-use of prison" and said one victim was a 16-year-old youth on remand for snatching a handbag.

Acid rain-makers

Two power stations have been condemned by the Government's conservation watchdog as among the worst in Britain for spreading acid rain, which destroys beauty spots and natural habitats. The rural protection agency English Nature says that sulphur dioxide emissions from coal-fired power stations at Rugeley, Staffordshire, and Ironbridge in Shropshire come to rest in areas as far afield as Scotland, Snowdonia, Cumbria and the Peak District.

Think-tank 'inhumane'

Proposals by Tory policy advisers to scrap employment protection legislation were condemned yesterday by Crewe Jenner, Labour MP and chairman of the all-party Commons employment committee. He said the plans were "disgraceful and inhumane" and predicted a rebellion by centre-left Conservative MPs if John Major were to take up the "far Right" ideas, to be published next week by Politeia, the newest of the Conservative think-tanks.

Driver killed by train

A 62-year-old woman was killed yesterday and her son injured when their car was hit by a passenger train on an unmanned level crossing. The Sprinter train from Rochdale to Liverpool ploughed into their car at Eccles, Greater Manchester. Jean Moore, 62, and Michael, 26, from Audenshaw, had to be cut from the wreckage. Mrs Moore, who had been driving, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver and guard were treated for shock.

Fraud couple jailed

A council official and her husband who stole £109,000 in a housing benefits fraud were each jailed for two and a half years yesterday at the Old Bailey. Sheena Khan and husband Shakil, both 31, of Ilford, invented bogus claimants and landlords to defraud Newham and Waltham Forest councils in East London. Council cheques were then sent to accommodation addresses controlled by the couple.

LSO sacking settlement

A stage manager who was sacked for failing to turn up on time to an important rehearsal by the London Symphony Orchestra received an out-of-court settlement yesterday for unfair dismissal. The 90 members of the orchestra and the conductor had been unable to play a note without him: he had their instruments. Nicholas Morgan, 36, of Cardiff, who was employed by the orchestra for around seven years, said he had overslept and his van had broken down.

Labour aims to boost housing

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

LABOUR will launch fresh proposals next month aimed at restoring confidence in the housing market. Mortgage-holders facing repayment difficulties will be offered a package of measures to help them keep their homes while potential first-time buyers can expect better safeguards to entice them into the market.

The move comes ahead of a conference on the house market in March when Labour will try to capitalise on what it sees at the Government's failure to protect homeowners.

Nick Raynsford, the Labour housing spokesman, published a report yesterday showing that 300,000 homes had been repossessed since John Major came to power in November 1992. More than 1,000 people are now losing their homes each week.

Labour proposals include:

■ Better safeguards against homeowners being sold the wrong mortgage. Mr Raynsford said too many homeowners were locked into "problematic" mortgages.

■ Changes in the type of mortgages available so that repayments could be more flexible.

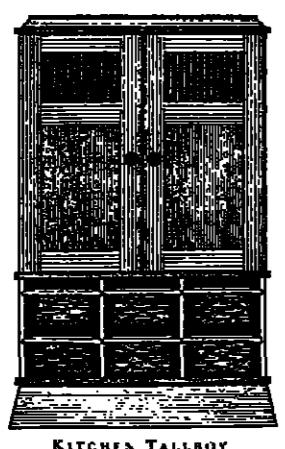
■ More effective private mortgage insurance to compensate for the abolition last October of the income support safety net for new borrowers.

■ More options for homeowners to share equity with others, such as a housing association, in an attempt to cut repayments when times are hard.



Lyell and Waldegrave: ready to mount a vigorous defence when the report comes out next month

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NEWS IN BRIEF
Inspections
be less frequent

prison suicides

rain-makers

er killed by train

ad couple jailed

sacking settlement

fight
port
Labour
aims to
boost
housing

Plastic pipes that burst were only recently installed to replace leaky, cast iron system



End of the line: residents of Ashington, Northumberland, queue for water from a bowser yesterday after supplies were cut off. Water companies blamed "ground shift", which caused underground pipes to break in the sudden thaw

Water companies blame quick thaw for shortage

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FREAK weather and a phenomenon called "ground shift" were blamed yesterday by the water companies for the shortages in supplies that brought misery to thousands of homes and businesses.

The companies, struggling to restore services after thousands of mains burst across northern Britain, said the ground had thawed too quickly. This caused small mains pipes to be twisted and broken as the ground expanded in the freeze and then suddenly contracted in the overnight thaw.

Some of the pipes were more vulnerable because they were new. North East Water had recently installed some plastic pipes to replace leaky cast iron ones. The pipes had not yet bedded in so the pressure of the expanding, or

frost line, to avoid "ground shift". British water companies said it added to costs to dig any deeper but guidelines, based on advice from the Water Research Centre at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, may now be reviewed.

Temperatures fell to -14C before suddenly thawing to 4C, causing the ground to shift by several inches. Pipes were pushed and twisted, causing some to fracture in the middle and many to break at the joints.

Wayne Jackson, general manager of water utility serving Toronto, where temperatures were yesterday below -20C, said that it was not possible to construct a totally burst-free water system.

He said the Canadians put their mains at a depth of 5ft, which is below the freezing or

ethylene materials which are 12 per cent more flexible.

Ms Kirby said that in Canada and Russia the thaws were also far more even and slower than this week's sudden cold snap and thaw.

One of the consequences of the bursts has been that the Northumberland towns of Newbiggin-by-the-Sea and Ashington have been cut off.

A North East Water spokesman said that the towns were supplied by water from the River Coquet at Warkworth which, after being treated, is piped to a service reservoir. But the burst pipes meant the company cannot supply enough treated water to the reservoir for all the area's customers and "these two villages are, unfortunately, at the end of the pipe".

Cowboy plumbers cash in

PLUMBERS have been cashing in on the thaw in northeast England by charging average labour fees of £50 an hour - double their usual rate. Householders were warned by the National Association of Plumbing, Heating and Mechanical Services Contractors to beware of unscrupulous traders.

A spokesman said: "We are incensed that plumbers are ripping people off and damaging the reputation of the industry." Only plumbers that pass a quality test are allowed to join the association or the Institute of Plumbers. Complaints about members could lead to them being expelled. Both organisations have a code of practice which is registered with the Office of Fair Trading.

Executive's wife directs bucketful of ire at press

By JOANNA BALE

DESPISE calls to save water, the wife of Northumbrian Water's chief executive used a bucket of the precious commodity to hurl in anger yesterday.

David Cranston tried in vain to stop his wife Jennifer throwing the water at Raoul Dixon, a press photographer, as he took pictures in the drive of their home. After narrowly missing the target, the blue bucket shattered on the ground and Mrs Cranston stormed into the house, slamming the front door.

Mr Cranston, who had earlier given his wife Dixon permission to photograph buckets of water on his front doorstep, turned away and tried to hide his embarrassment. Like hundreds of other residents in Darras Hall estate in Ponteland, Northumberland, the Cranstons were carefully



Mrs Cranston: hurled precious commodity

conserving water. Mrs Cranston had told reporters: "We are being sensible with water just like everyone else."

The water was cut off at their detached home on Monday night, although it came back at low pressure yesterday morning. Mr Cranston, 59, who earns £189,000 a year,

had proudly explained that they had filled buckets from their fish pond to flush toilets. He said: "We are using the taps as little as possible."

After his public relations plan backfired, he said:

"There was a misunderstanding about a photograph and my wife was gravely upset. I am fair game, but she is not."

Mr Dixon, 20, said: "I went to the door with a reporter. Mrs Cranston answered and spoke about how she and her husband had been trying to conserve water. She asked us not to take pictures of the buckets or to pictures of the buckets."

"Mrs Cranston had taken two buckets into the house and was returning for the third when she saw me taking pictures. She grabbed the full bucket and hurled it at me."

Rail commuters held rape suspect

By A STAFF REPORTER

PASSENGERS chased and caught an alleged rapist after his terrified victim banged on the windows of their late-night commuter train, a court was told yesterday.

When the train arrived at Anerley station, south London, two British Rail drivers saw Lee Coleman, 25, on top of a 34-year-old Stock Exchange executive apparently having sex with her on a bench, Ian Darling, for the prosecution, said.

As the train pulled to a halt the drivers, in their mirror, saw the woman push the man off, and run to the nearest carriage, banging on the window for help.

The drivers also saw Mr Coleman run off over a bridge. Commuters left their carriages to give chase, and marched him back to face his victim. Mr Darling told the Old Bailey. In tears she told him "you know what you did, you know what you threatened me with, you men think you can get what you want".

Mr Coleman later claimed to police the woman had kissed him and demanded sex. But he repeatedly denied lying on top of her on the bench. The trial continues.

Murder gang 'seen in club'

By ADRIAN LEE

FRIENDS of Evin Berry, the father of three shot dead as he tried to stop a mugging, said yesterday he was murdered by a criminal gang that had travelled to Bristol to steal the takings from a New Year's Eve party.

Last night police said they were investigating reports that a group of men was seen brandishing guns in a night-club, a mile from the murder scene in St Paul's, 90 minutes before Mr Berry was killed.

Armed police went to the Millionaires' Club, in Stapleton Road, Easton, where 200 revellers were celebrating the new year. No one was arrested or guns recovered. An Avon and Somerset police spokesman said: "We monitored people leaving but there was a big crowd so we had to be cautious. The last thing we wanted was a gun battle."

Mr Berry, a caretaker at the Malcolm X Community Centre, in St Paul's, was shot in the head with a .32 calibre bullet from a handgun as he tried to intervene in the mugging. He was walking home with two friends after supervising a party at the centre, where he was also well known for his voluntary work.

Former colleagues and friends gathered yesterday to lay flowers at the spot where the 37-year-old died and paid tribute to the "gentle giant".

They said he was due to begin work on a drugs awareness project for young people.

Mr Berry, born in Jamaica but a resident of Bristol since he was a young boy, was described as one of the most highly respected men in the black community.

One card, placed with flowers, in Grosvenor Road where he died, said simply: "Respect always big man". Another said: "To a gentle giant, you will be missed."

The black community has promised its full co-operation in the hunt for those responsible.

"These were not just street muggers," said a friend of the dead man. "They came to do something big and it never happened. They were frustrated and Evin was in the wrong place at the wrong time."

A police source said: "It is highly likely the killer came from outside the local community, otherwise we would have expected to have heard more by now."

Museum stops Drake from sinking

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE 400th anniversary of the death of Sir Francis Drake will see his tattered reputation revived by the National Maritime Museum with a major exhibition.

Drake has been branded as a pirate and slave trader by those anxious to impose 20th century standards on the past. Never exactly popular with the Spanish, whose colonies he sacked and whose Armada he helped destroy, he was last year denied a celebratory stamp by the Post Office.

Plans to recover his body from its watery grave off Panama for reburial at Westminster Abbey have been rebuffed by the Admiralty.



Drake: cruel tyrant or a master tactician?

Museum stops Drake from sinking

his skills as a tactician and navigator. The Greenwich exhibition, *Blood, Sea and Ice*, which also celebrates Captain James Cook and the Arctic explorer Sir John Franklin, opens on January 28. It will include Drake's Drum, a side drum carried on his last voyage which by legend is supposed to be beat when England is in danger of invasion, and a sea chest from the *Golden Hind*.

Dr Eric Kentley, organiser of the exhibition, said: "It is a tribute to three men who shaped the destiny of our country, and the world, by battle, exploration, navigation and discovery."

John Cumming, reader in Spanish at the University of Aberdeen and the author of a recent biography of Drake,

admits that even in his lifetime plenty of people disliked him. In an article in *History Today*, he quotes a contemporary account of Drake's circumnavigation of the world describing him as "a tyrant and cruel tyrant" capable of murder, venom, and "bluid spilling". But Dr Cumming believes that many who disliked Drake did so because of his humble upbringing and unwillingness to bend the knee to social superiors.

There are two black marks, Dr Cumming admits: Drake's desertion of his comrades under Spanish fire after the battle of San Juan de Ulua when he simply sailed away, and his execution at sea of Thomas Doughty on trumped-up charges.

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additional free ticket; the option to buy a season ticket entitling you to as many free trips as a foot passenger to France as you want; a discount of 10% off The Grotto Shops in Boulogne and Calais; fantastic Summer holiday deals on fares and short breaks; as well as a host of reductions at hotels and restaurants located on the French North coast.*

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reservations line on 01304 240 241, which takes credit card bookings.

For travel after 31/01/96, complete the form above and send it to:

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*This offer is valid until 31 January 1996. Between 1 February and 31 March, foot passengers pay £1 and cars with up to 5 occupants pay £10 (£20 Saturday).

Bottomley gambles on lottery's appeal to Middle Britain

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

VIRGINIA BOTTOMLEY is to appeal directly to Middle Britain in an attempt to regain the moral high ground for the National Lottery.

The Heritage Secretary will ask Women's Institutes, Round Table organisations and Rotary and Lions Clubs to help to bring the benefits of the lottery to every village and town. Stung by growing criticism that too much lottery cash has gone to large-scale, elitist and urban projects, she is sending out two million leaflets to leaders of local businesses and community groups to explain how small organisations can apply for lottery grants.

Mrs Bottomley is keen to ensure that the game is perceived as a "people's lottery". She hopes that businessmen and women in organisations such as rotary clubs will use their social and professional contacts with local authorities, councils and traders people to help to put together small bids for lottery funding.

A spokesman said: "She wants to reach out to Middle England and to show people that the lottery can be used as a way of regenerating local economies as well as improving community facilities." Mrs Bottomley also wants local



Bottomley: sending out two million leaflets

business leaders to take an active role in putting together lottery bids. Every company is being urged to give one of their best members of staff responsibility for co-ordinating a lottery strategy.

Mrs Bottomley believes that small firms have a strong vested interest. Grants given to small-scale community schemes will benefit local builders and crafts people and suppliers. About 20 per cent of the work undertaken by Camelot, the lottery operator, said that sales had increased substantially yesterday. "It's a possibility that nine out of ten people aged 16 or over will play this week," she said.

The Anglican Bishop of Wakefield, the Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, yesterday renewed his calls for an end to the "obscene" prizes made possible by roll-overs, which encouraged "sheer greed".

The lottery is not about making the public happy — it is a business set up to make its shareholders rich, the Bishop wrote in the *Daily Mail*. "Camelot, with the connivance of the BBC, tempts an unusually gullible British public with dreams of the happiness that money alone can bring. It is one of the oldest lies."

Arts, page 33

Church school head resigns after £500 theft is uncovered

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A HEAD TEACHER resigned after admitting taking money raised for her former school, it was revealed yesterday. Mrs Karen Reynolds has since repaid the missing £500.

Her resignation from St John's Church of England primary school in Gosport, Hampshire, had been attributed to sickness. Police were not called in.

The money came from a fundraising event for the town's Leesland Infant Church of England School in the summer of 1994. It was

found to be missing only after Mrs Reynolds left to run neighbouring St John's. Leesland governors called in auditors, and Mrs Reynolds resigned three months ago when they presented her with the results.

Hampshire County Council yesterday confirmed the reason for her departure, Peter Coles, the chief education officer, said: "Money was missing. There was an investigation and Mrs Reynolds admitted having taken the money." The sum was too

small, he said, for the "substantial additional expenditure in terms of police time and Crown Prosecution Service time that would be incurred. It is a crude rule but it applies whether you are talking about a caretaker or a chief officer."

In a letter to parents, the Rev Anne Gordon, the Leesland governors' chairwoman, said: "We set high standards of honesty as an example to our children. Staff and governors have been particularly upset by this."

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Arthritis research 'likely to cure most victims'

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

MOST cases of arthritis are likely to be cured within the next decade after spectacular progress in care and treatment, a leading British specialist forecast yesterday.

Mrs Bottomley hopes the initiative will continue, continuing criticism of the record £40 million roll-over jackpot expected in Saturday's draw.

A spokeswoman for Camelot, the lottery operator, said that sales had increased substantially yesterday.

"It's a possibility that nine out of ten people aged 16 or over will play this week," she said.

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It is now believed that researchers were on the threshold of another leap forward in treatment, either through progress in therapy pioneered by the council, which attacks the substances that cause damage to joints, or through genetic work which is providing clues to the cause of the disease.

The council is contributing £17 million a year to arthritis research. The disease in its various forms affects millions of people in Britain, with 600,000 suffering from rheumatoid arthritis and 1,500,000 from osteoarthritis.

At the council's diamond jubilee conference in Hamersmith, west London, was the actor Andrew Sachs, 65, alias Manuel in *Fawlty Towers*. He praised the courage of young sufferers he had met in his work for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street.

Jasmine, whose juvenile chronic arthritis was diagnosed at the age of 16 months, walked unaided for the first time on Christmas Day as her parents and brothers were eating dinner.

Her mother Angela said yesterday: "She has been trying to walk for some time but it has been too painful. When



Jasmine Gardner, who first walked unaided on Christmas Day at the age of 22 months

First steps give family extra reason for a celebration

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE first steps of Jasmine Gardner, aged 22 months, were particularly special for her family because arthritis had prevented her from even crawling at times.

Jasmine, whose juvenile chronic arthritis was diagnosed at the age of 16 months, walked unaided for the first time on Christmas Day as her parents and brothers were eating dinner.

Her mother Angela said yesterday: "She has been trying to walk for some time but it has been too painful. When

she got very ill she would lose any ability to crawl. On Christmas Day I let go of her and she started to walk all around the table. It was absolutely brilliant."

Mrs Gardner, 38, and her husband Andrew brought Jasmine to London yesterday for a conference to mark the diamond jubilee of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.

Mrs Gardner, of Wellington, Northamptonshire, said: "Jasmine was taken very ill in January last year. She had been admitted

to hospital with a high fever and a rash which they thought was an allergic reaction.

"She was finally diagnosed in July. The doctors could not say what the outcome will be. We don't know if she is going to develop problems with her joints later on in life or whether she is going to grow out of it."

Jasmine's twin sister died after being born three months prematurely. Mr Gardner, 40, said: "Jasmine is very well at the moment, the best she has ever been."

Rushdie claims his second Whitbread award

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SALMAN RUSHDIE has won the Whitbread novel award for a second time, in the twenty-fifth year of the literary prizes. Lord Jenkins of Hillhead has taken the biography prize for his book on Gladstone.

They are among five £2,000 category winners whose work goes forward for the overall £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year prize, to be announced on January 23.

Rushdie won his award for *The Moor's Last Sigh*, a tragicomic story set in modern India and Moorish Granada. He first received the award in 1989 for *The Satanic Verses*.

Rushdie said yesterday that he was pleased for the book, explaining that he had a "parental feeling" towards it. "I was very excited when I finished it. I did feel that it was good," he said.

He was happy to hear people talk of the "enjoyment" of reading it. "I have always felt there was no reason why good literature should not be good and enjoyable," Rushdie said, commenting on the divide between serious and popular literature. Awards such as Whitbread would help to take good literature beyond the literary elite, he said.

The Whitbread judges, including the author Canda McWilliam and Joe Snyders, managing director of Dillons, said: "Rushdie gives us a wonderful display of verbal ingenuity and unleashes an explosion of creative energy." Also on the shortlist were Martin Amis's *The Information*, Pat Barker's *The Ghost Road*, the 1995 Booker Prize winner, *In Every Face I Meet* by Justin Cartwright and Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Unconsoled*.

The biography of Gladstone by Lord Jenkins, leader of the Liberal Democrats in the House of Lords, was described by the judges as supremely elegant. Bernard O'Donoghue won the Whitbread poetry award for *Gunpowder*. Kate Atkinson won the first novel award for *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*; and Michael Morpurgo took the Beefeater children's novel award for *The Wreck of the Zanzibar*.

Shaking all over in a sober new year

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttaford

epileptic fit is often the first indication of trouble ahead but the patient may also run a temperature, suffer cramps and abdominal pain.

Hallucinations may be particularly interesting to the doctor but are always terrifying to the patient. Often they have not also been drinking heavily for several years. The patient may become fearful, deluded and incoherent and there may be changes in their level of consciousness. DTs are associated with physical pain, as well as mental signs: an

ghastly images that he or she is seeing or hearing. Hallucinations can either be auditory — the hearing of voices, for instance — or visual or tactile.

Seeing, and feeling, rats crawling all over the bed, the floor and even their own body is a common visual hallucination, and one which struck a journalist who had been sent to the United States and decided to take the opportunity to give up the booze. As is usually the case, these symp-

toms started within 48 hours of putting the good resolution into practice.

Over Christmas I was told an even more fascinating example of DTs by a retired Irish surgeon. At the end of the Second World War, while in the Navy, he was asked to escort back from the Far East a senior officer who had become an alcoholic.

As they approached the English Channel his charge thought the time had come to give up alcohol. Within hours the senior officer was suffering from the Lilliput syndrome in which everybody around him seemed to be only inches tall; he was terrified.

The surgeon thereafter was able to understand why many of his Irish patients professed to believe so determinedly in the existence of "the little people".

Army commander fights gay move

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SENIOR Army commander has called for an attack "on the flanks of the homosexual fraternity" as part of a campaign to stop the Government from lifting the ban on gays serving in the Armed Forces. In an outspoken letter to a Ministry of Defence unit preparing a report on the issue for ministers, Brigadier John Patrick warned of the need to "fight off the strong views of a small but vociferous minority".

Writing as commander of 145 (Home Counties) Brigade, based at Aldershot, Brigadier Patrick is one of many senior officers who have voiced strong aversion to any change in the current ban on homosexuality in the Services.

His letter, which was leaked yesterday, was addressed to the MoD's homosexual policy assessment team which, under its chairman, Paul Shultz, a civil servant, is drawing up options for ministers in the event of a decision to change the long-standing policy.

A survey carried out throughout the three Services is believed to show substantial support for keeping the

HRT 'does not make women fat'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

LONG-TERM use of hormone replacement therapy to counter the effects of the menopause does not lead to an increase in weight, researchers have found.

Fear of weight gain is one of the principal reasons why women refuse HRT or give it up soon after starting. However, the first study to examine the long-term effects of the treatment has found no evidence that it adds pounds.

One in five post-menopausal women in Britain takes HRT and the proportion is expected to grow to one in three by the end of the decade. But there is a widespread belief among women and doctors that the reduction in menopausal symptoms is bought at the expense of an increase in girth.

Researchers from the University of California studied 671 women over almost 20 years to 1991. Their results, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, showed that there were no differences between users and non-users of HRT on measures of obesity, fat distribution or body composition.

THE WEEKEND STARTS HERE

FRIDAY

IN THE TIMES

On the pop page: predictions for sound success in 1996
PLUS The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY

IN THE TIMES

Matthew Paris in Bolivia in a travel issue of the Magazine
PLUS Sailing special in Weekend and win a Topper dinghy in 1015



Rush claims second Whitby award

Dying wish of greatest ballerina 'was denied by money-grubbing husband'

Artist fights for return to Russia of Pavlova ashes

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

ANNA PAVLOVA, the greatest ballerina the world has known, made a dying wish to return to her "beloved Russia" once communism had fallen, according to new evidence a Dutch painter claims to have discovered. He has now launched a campaign to have her ashes removed from Golders Green cemetery in northwest London and reinterred in Russia.

In a newly published book, Jean Thomassen also maintains that the former prima ballerina of St Petersburg's Mariinsky Theatre was never married to her husband and business manager, Victor Dandré, whom he portrays as a money-grubbing parasite. He insists that Pavlova, who died in The Hague in 1931, was the victim of Dandré's manipulation. He forced her to dance until her death, plundered her British bank account, falsified her dying words and suppressed her wish to return to Russia, according to unseen evidence Mr Thomassen says he found in Dutch archives.

His claims have met fierce opposition from Harvey Thomas, a non-executive director of the Golders Green crematorium, where Pavlova's ashes have lain in a white marble urn for the past 65 years.

Mr Thomas said there was no question of returning the ashes: they were given in perpetuity by Dandré. Under his own will, read after his death in 1944, the crematorium was entitled to "consider" removing the ashes to Russia only if a formal request were

made. No such request had been received, Mr Thomas said. "Anyway, the will stipulated that they could only be returned if due honour, dignity and the security of the ashes were guaranteed," he said. "In Russia today, when the elections have brought Communists back to power, that is clearly out of the question."

Pavlova is one of the more famous people in the cemetery, close to her London home

claims Pavlova, as a Russian Orthodox believer, would never have consented to cremation. "I'm sure Anna would have returned home to Russia earlier if she had not been prevented from doing so by Dandré, who was forbidden from going back because of fraud charges there."

Pavlova, born in 1881, rapidly established herself as the most celebrated dancer of her time. Already a prima ballerina in 1906, she went to Paris on the historic tour of the Ballets Russes in 1909, and after 1913 danced independently with her own company throughout the world.

For the rest of her life, with various partners (including Laurent Novikov and Pierre Vladimirov) and companies, she was a wandering missionary for her art. Her performance is said to have left all those who saw her with a lasting memory of disciplined grace and poetic movement.

Pavlova had no children. Her home, Ivy House in Hampstead, became famous for the ornamental lake with swans, symbolic of her most famous role, the Saint-Saëns dying swan, which she performed 4,000 times.

On her deathbed, she is reputed to have said "Prepare my swan costume", but Mr Thomassen said she really asked her maid to send back the designer dress she had recently bought in Paris and give the money to one of her orphans.

She gave her name to pavlova, a marshmallow and meringue confection topped with whipped cream.

Mr Thomassen, however,

in Highbury where she lived at the end of her life. Others include Sigmund Freud and Peter Sellars. Mr Thomas, a former director of communications for the Conservative Party, said there was no reason to return the ashes either to The Netherlands or Russia. He accused Mr Thomassen of being obsessional and his crusade was "misguided".

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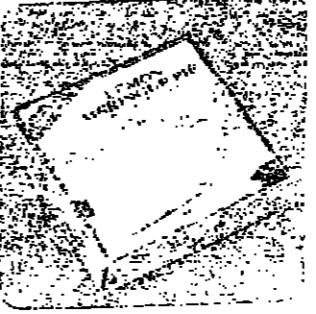
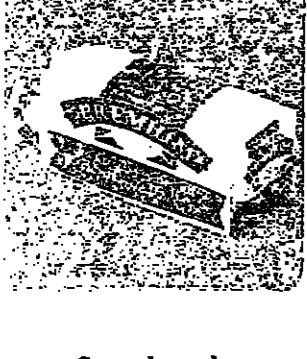
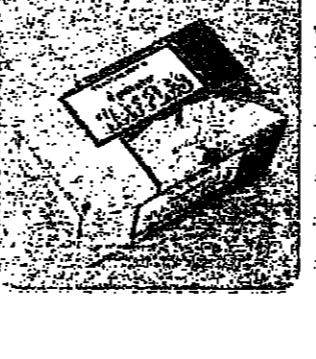
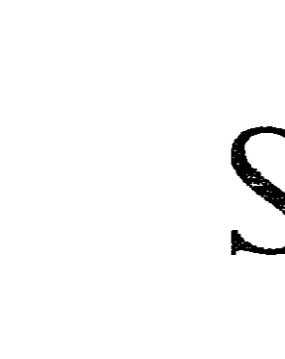
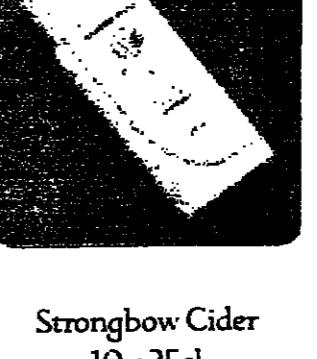
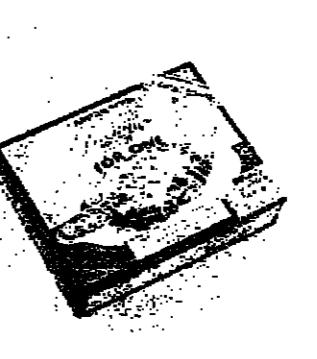
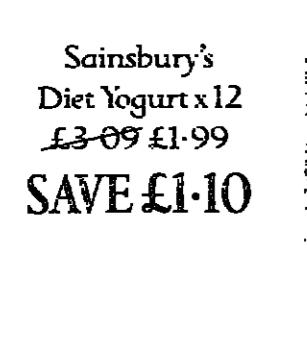
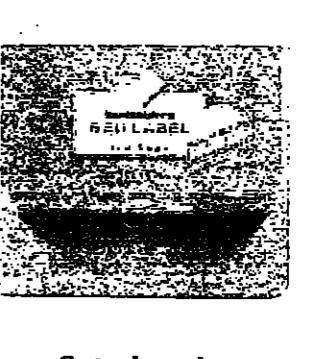
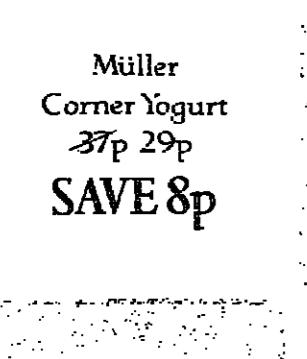
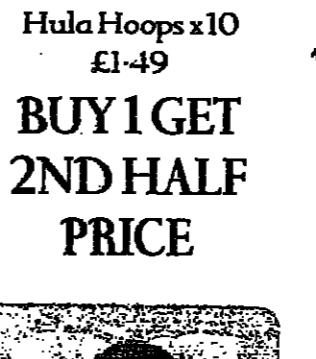
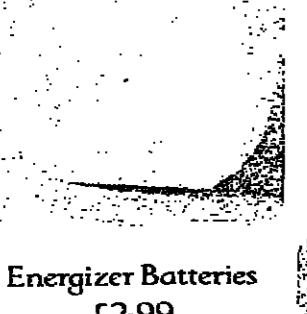
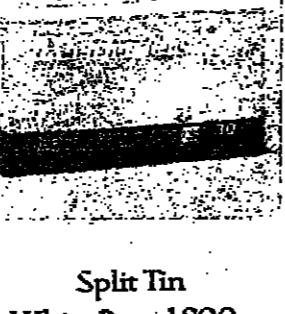
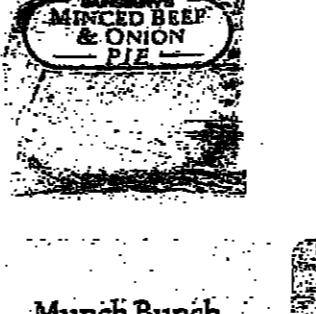
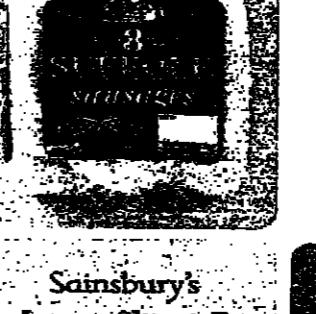
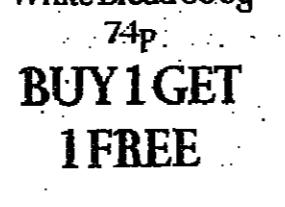
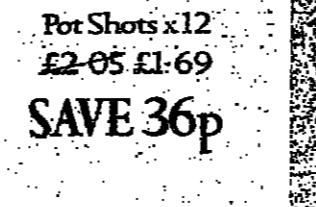
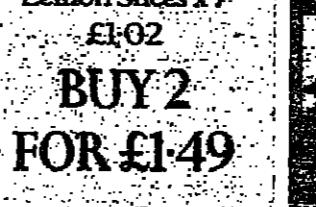
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	British White Potatoes 2.5kg £1.39 69p HALF PRICE		Nescafé 200g £3.66 BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE		Sainsbury's Sunflower Extra Light 79p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sara Lee Lemon Meringue Pie £1.49 99p SAVE 50p		
	Imperial Leather Mild Soap £1.79 6 BARS FOR THE PRICE OF 4		Shredded Wheat Bitesize 750g £2.09 £1.29 SAVE 80p		Sainsbury's 9" Cheese & Tomato Pizza To-Go £1.95 £1.45 SAVE 50p		Sainsbury's Creamery Light 200g 99p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		
	Sainsbury's Premium White Bread 800g 51p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Absolute Anti-Perspirant 200ml £1.39 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Frozen Potato Waffles 99p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Philips Softone White Light Bulbs x3 £1.99 £1.29 SAVE 70p		
	Sainsbury's Thick Cut Sausage and Egg Sandwich £1.19 69p SAVE 50p		Heinz Tomato Soup 4x405g £1.23 4 FOR THE PRICE OF 3		Sainsbury's B5 Active Shampoo/Conditioner 1L 49 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Strongbow Cider 10x25cl SPECIAL PURCHASE £2.99		
	Robertson's Strawberry Jam 340g 79p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Sport Shower Gel £1.19 BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Fresh Lasagne for one 99p 69p SAVE 30p		Duerr's Thick Cut Marmalade 454g 79p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		
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	Müller Corner Yogurt 375g 29p SAVE 8p		Sainsbury's Cheesy Feet 95p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Sainsbury's Foam Bath 1 litre 99p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Hula Hoops x10 £1.49 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Sainsbury's Frozen Garden Peas 907g £1.29 99p SAVE 30p
	Ham on the Bone (knuckle) 89p 59p per 100g SAVE 30p per 100g		Sainsbury's Performers Ultra Dry/ Ultra Thin £5.39 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Sainsbury's Minced Beef & Onion Pie 400g £1.09 79p SAVE 30p		Suffolk Choice 8 Sausages £1.29 BUY 2 GET 3RD FREE		
	Energizer Batteries £2.99 BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE		Split Tin White Bread 800g 74p BUY 1 GET 1 FREE		Munch Bunch Pot Shots x12 £2.05 £1.69 SAVE 36p		Sainsbury's Lemon Slices x7 11.02 BUY 2 FOR £1.49		

Sainsbury's January Savers.

Savings you'll
notice at the till,
not at the table.

12 FOR THE PRICE OF 8

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE

BUY 1 GET 2ND HALF PRICE

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

BUY 1 GET 1 FREE

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL 13 JANUARY 1996. ALSO AVAILABLE AT SAINSBURY'S SAVACENTRES.

Harvest Grain
Brown Bread 800g
85p 55p
THIRD OFF

PG Tips 80s
£1.45
**BUY 2 GET
3RD FREE**

Alicante Tinto 75cl
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£2.25

Sainsbury's
Classic Cola
24 x 330ml
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£3.99

Sainsbury's
Apricot
Low Fat Fool
45p
**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE**

Sainsbury's
Battenberg
82p
**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE**

Mars/Snickers
Snacksize & Milky
Way 10 £1.57
**BUY 2 GET
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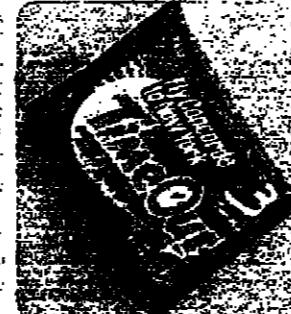
Sainsbury's
Frozen Large Chicken
2kg
£3.29 £2.29
SAVE £1

Sainsbury's
6 Cod Portions in
Crispy Breadcrumbs
£2.95 £1.95
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Sainsbury's
Cheese
Singles Light x 20
200g
£1.69 84p
HALF PRICE

Sainsbury's
Grapefruit Segments
2 x 539g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p

Sainsbury's
Cheese and
Onion Flan
£1.49 99p
SAVE 50p



Cadbury's
Time Out x 3 72p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Spontex 'S' Sponge
79p
**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE**



Sainsbury's Diet
Chocolate Mousse x 4
£1.09
**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE**



Haze Air Freshener
300ml 89p
**BUY 1 GET
2ND HALF
PRICE**



Sainsbury's No Added
Sugar Fruit Drinks
2 x 1 litre
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£1.79



Wall's "Too Good To
Be True" £1.89
**BUY 2 GET
3RD FREE**



Sainsbury's Frozen
Toad in the Hole
79p 49p
SAVE 30p



Aero Mousse x 2
79p
**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE**

Sainsbury's
60 Fish Fingers
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£1.89



Sainsbury's
Cottage Cheese 454g
£1.57 99p
SAVE 58p

Sainsbury's are making things a little easier
this January. Across the month we're

introducing 200 January Savers.

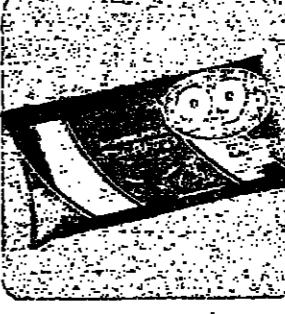
They're either dramatically down in price
or multibuys that give you more for your
money. So you can afford to give
your family the best, even in January.

Sainsbury's.
Where good food
costs less.

Kleenex Ultra Tissues
Mansize x 2
£2.89 £1.89
SAVE £1



Sainsbury's
Pure Apple Juice
4 x 1 litre
£3.19 £2.39
SAVE 80p

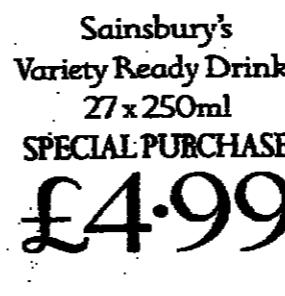


Del Monte
Peach Slices 2 x 415g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
89p

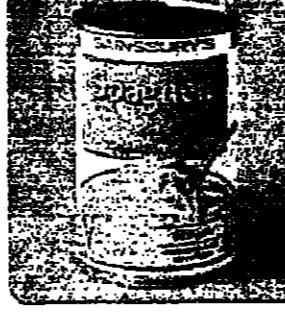


Sainsbury's
Spaghetti 2kg
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p

Loose Rolls
16p each
**BUY 1 GET
1 FREE**



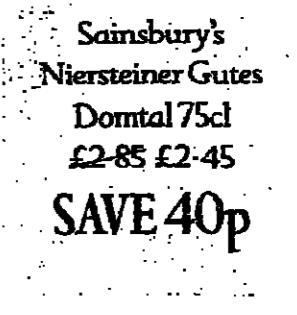
Sainsbury's
Variety Ready Drinks
27 x 250ml
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£4.99



Sainsbury's
Spaghetti 4 x 410g
95p 79p
SAVE 16p



Sainsbury's
Baked Beans
6 x 420g
SPECIAL PURCHASE
99p

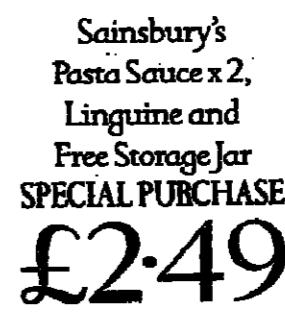


Sainsbury's
Niersteiner Gutes
Domtal 75cl
£2.85 £2.45
SAVE 40p

Sainsbury's
Fresh Chicken Tikka
340g
£2.79 £1.39
HALF PRICE



Kellogg's
Rice Krispies
440g
£1.55 £1.25
SAVE 30p



Sainsbury's
Pasta Sauce x 2,
Linguine and
Free Storage Jar
SPECIAL PURCHASE
£2.49

WE DON'T SAY BANGLA
Hope
peace
custom
battle

icts on
vs US
lobby

NatWest
Interest Rates



**Help us to celebrate our 125th birthday by
providing the 125th signature.**

1995 is a year in which we will not only be celebrating the achievements of the past, but laying down firm foundations for our future.

The names that you see on the page

have all committed themselves to help or support us.

If you would like to know how you can help, jot down your name in the space provided and add your full address.

Then simply post this advertisement to John F. Gray, Director of Public Affairs, British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EJ. Alternatively, phone us on 0171 201 5158.



**The party may be over
but the invitation still stands.**

A big thank you to all those who signed up for our Birthday year and a gentle reminder that we still need your help in the year ahead.



British Red Cross

مكتبة الأصل

THE TIMES WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1996

Getting your face in the press can do wonders for your image.



What's critical in cultivating an image is not where you go, it's where you go to be seen (spell that S-C-E-N-E).

And the ultimate scene to make your face famous is the newspaper.

This is as true for brands as for people.

In the case of Jaeger, it's even true of their typeFACE - rarely have we seen so much swash, such a lot of buckle in so few words.

This startling ad is part of a press campaign that brings new style to a

brand which has not always been in the forefront of people's minds.

It certainly made the judges in our recent Newspaper Advertising Awards stare - and then hand it a top prize.

Ah, what it is to be famous.



Egyptian
Cabinet
resigns

Cairo: Atef Sedki, the Prime Minister of Egypt, and his Cabinet resigned yesterday after nine years in office, the official Menya news agency said.

Kamal el-Ganzouri, 62, the Deputy Prime Minister, said he had been asked by President Mubarak to form a new government. The action came less than a month after Egyptians chose a new parliament in elections that were criticised as rife with fraud. The Cabinet's decision to resign was made at a half-hour emergency session. The last big reshuffle was in October 1993.

The move came as a surprise because President Mubarak said after the elections that he saw no need for big Cabinet changes. (AP/APP)

Banned skater
marries again

Los Angeles: Tonya Harding, whose first husband helped to destroy her figure-skating career two years ago, has remarried (Giles Whittell writes). Ms Harding was banned for life from competitions after her chief rival, Nancy Kerrigan, was attacked on the eve of the US national figure-skating championships in 1994. Picture rights to her wedding to Michael Smith were sold for £6,600.

First meal for
Seoul protester

Seoul: Chun Doo Hwan, the jailed former South Korean President, ate his first solid meal — boiled mushrooms, shredded beef in soy sauce, and rice porridge — after ending his three-week hunger strike to protest his innocence on charges of masterminding the 1979 military coup. Prosecutors have resumed questioning him in hospital. (APF)

Indonesia hit
by tidal wave

Pale: Indonesian police said that at least eight people had been killed by a tidal wave after an earthquake measuring 7.0 on the Richter scale hit Indonesia's Sulawesi island on New Year's Day. Officials said that at least 364 buildings had been damaged by the quake. (Reuters)

Bridal suite

Taipei: A couple in Taiwan are to marry in a £64,000 public bathroom they built themselves. Five other couples will marry in the bathroom, lavishly decorated and located in a park in central Taiwan, on January 14. (Reuters)

'Islamic fundamentalism thrives in the poorest areas and feeds on deprivation'

Middle East threatened with 'mutiny and revolt'

A LEADING Arab intellectual has delivered a warning that, despite Israel-Arab peace moves, the Middle East faces an explosion of social and economic discontent.

Mohamed Heikal, who advised both President Nasser and President Sadat of Egypt, and is former editor of the Cairo daily *al-Ahram*, said the Middle East could "explode in mutiny and revolt ... All the elements of a storm are gathering".

Mr Heikal was briefly imprisoned by Sadat for his criticism of Egyptian policy after the 1973 Middle East War, and later caused controversy with his 1992 book *Illusions of Triumph*, in which he argued that the Allied victory over Iraq in the Gulf War would exacerbate tensions between the West and the Arab world in the long run.

In his latest polemic, *Secret Channels*, he argues that the Israeli-Palestinian accords amount to an "unjust peace" comparable with Versailles after the First World War. "Every Middle East initiative has been based on finding a way for the Arabs to surrender with a flag of dignity," Mr Heikal said in an interview. "The peace of Oslo maximised Israeli gains. The Palestinians did not get an independent



Arab leaders have failed to solve the economic and social tensions in their own countries, a leading Egyptian author tells Richard Owen

state, nor did they get any control over Jerusalem. I do not think the deal will survive for long."

The danger to Middle East stability stems mainly, Mr Heikal argues, from the failure of Arab leaders to solve economic and social tensions in their own countries. "The rulers of the Arab world have all been in power too long," he said. "The youngest of them — Colonel Muammar Gaddafi of Libya — has been at the helm for 26 years. Yet 60 per cent of the Arab population is below the age of 18. So here you have an explosive mix — permanence of power at the top, and social and economic turbulence underneath."

Mr Heikal pointed to Saudi Arabia, where the stroke suffered by King Fahd a month ago led this week to a "temporary" transfer of power to his half-brother, Crown Prince Abdullah. The real threat to the King, he said, stemmed not from Islamic hotheads but from the growing middle class, which was created by

Saudi wealth and now resents the all-pervasive control of the Royal Family. "They want a share of power, and do not accept the monopoly of all wealth and political decisions by the House of Saud."

He also singled out Egypt, where there are nearly two million unemployed graduates, some of whom turn to radical Islam. "It is no accident that Islamic fundamentalism thrives in the poorest areas, and feeds on deprivation" Mr Heikal said. "If you are a young Arab, if you become educated, return to your village and find no work, naturally you become radical. In the past you might have become a communist; nowadays you become an Islamic fundamentalist."

The answer, Mr Heikal said, lay in economic reform, which would give Arabs back their pride and identity and so undercut the appeal of radical Islam. "Once we had Egyptian leadership and Gulf money, now we have neither. Before

the Gulf War there was at

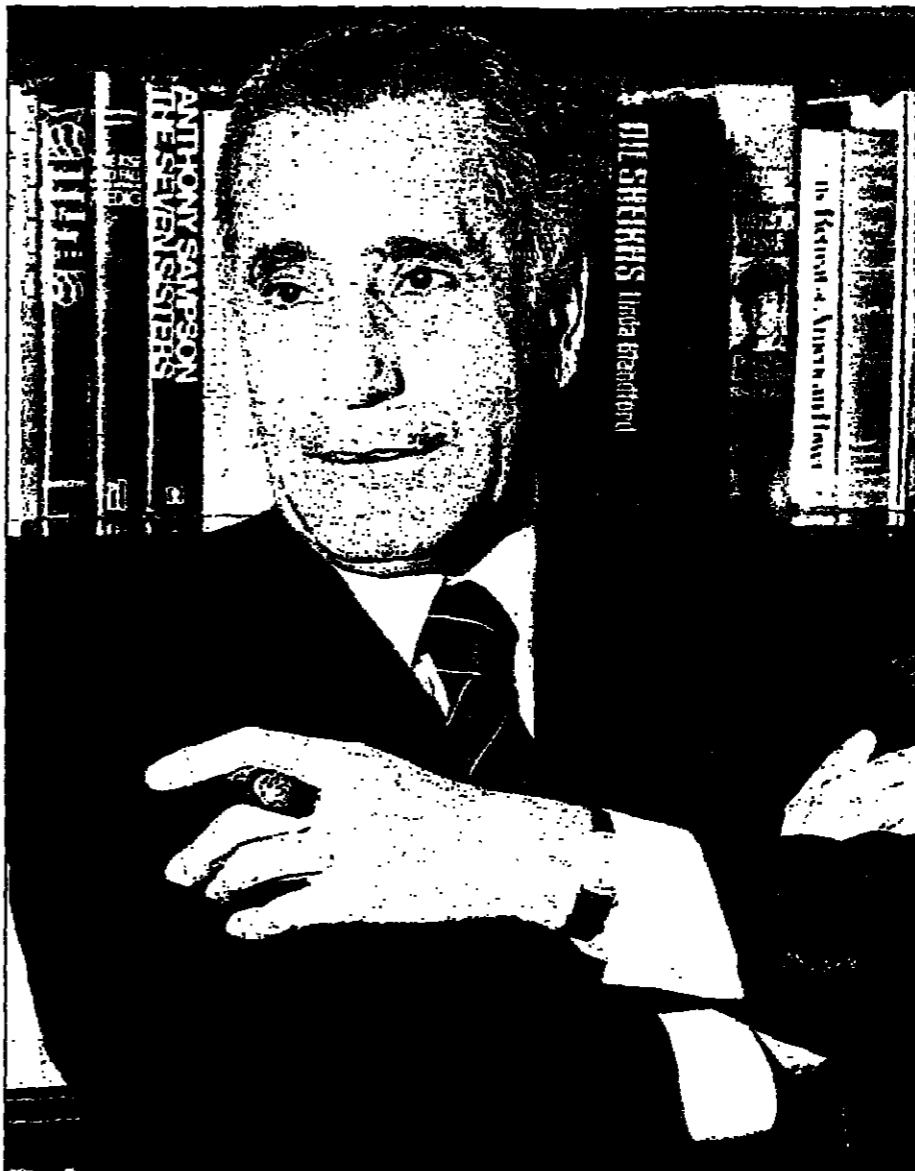
least the semblance of Arab unity, of Arab nationalism. Now even that is gone. There is a dearth of ideas."

Some Arab leaders have tried to meet the Islamic challenge on its own ground. "One-third of Egyptian TV programmes are now religious. But you cannot fight the sheikhs this way: they will always win. They know better than the people on television. All you do is to create an atmosphere in which they advance further."

Anti-Islamic propaganda is ineffective, and police crackdowns have only limited impact, "because what we are witnessing is not really a religious revolt at all, but a social and economic one. Arab leaders must tackle the sources of poverty on which fundamentalism feeds."

Western democracy was not the answer, he said — or, rather, empty imitations of Western institutions like the rubber-stamp Saudi "Consultative Council". "As far as I know it has met twice. It was done to satisfy the West that Saudi Arabia was reforming democratically. Democracy in the British or European sense is a luxury for us Arabs."

Secret Channels by Mohamed Heikal is published on January 8 by HarperCollins at £25.



Mohamed Heikal, the writer, who predicts the Middle East could explode

Saudi change raises doubts over Western arms contracts

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE change at the top of the Saudi ruling family, with King Fahd taking a back seat after 13 years, will create new uncertainties over the defence and security relationship forged with the West before an end to the 1991 Gulf War.

Like Western contractors, particularly the United States, Britain and France, lie at the heart of the relationship with the Saudi Royal Family.

Although Saudi arms-buying policy has been based for some years on a mix-and-match approach, involving a number of exporting countries, the United States and Britain have been the chief beneficiaries. The historic Al-Yamamah 1 arms deal, signed with Britain in 1986, and Al-Yamamah 2, signed in 1988, which should run for years, could eventually be worth at least £20 billion from the sale of fighter aircraft, Pilatus PC-9 trainers, minesweepers and ammunition, with training and airfield construction.

US deals were achieved,

despite stiff competition from America, as a result of hard-sell tactics, long-standing contacts and a personal rapport with King Fahd. Baroness Thatcher, when she was Prime Minister, John Major, and a queue of senior Cabinet ministers have visited King Fahd over the past ten years to keep the arms export agreement on course.

The importance of the relationship with King Fahd cannot be underestimated. After the Gulf War, Saudi Arabia was anxious to avoid becoming a permanent base for

Western ground forces, despite pressure from the Allies. It took a personal telephone call from Mr Major to King Fahd to persuade the Saudi monarch to allow six RAF Tornados to remain based at Dhahran as part of the combat air patrol of Iraq south of the 32nd parallel.

With British Aerospace as the prime contractor, present orders involve Tornados, three minesweepers being built by Vosper Thornycroft, 155mm artillery shells and Pilatus trainer aircraft.

Al-Yamamah, and the contracts won by America and France (mostly warships), have survived despite Saudi budget cuts after pressure on the kingdom's economy. Some items from Al-Yamamah 2 have not yet materialised, including a possible order for combat helicopters from Westland, and more minesweepers. There are also hopes for a sale of British Challenger 2 tanks and Warrior armoured fighting vehicles, although 315 US Abrams M1A2 tanks are on order.

Britain hopes to sell Challenger 2 tanks to Saudi Arabia

Fahd. The Al-Yamamah agreements were based on a firm understanding between Britain and Saudi Arabia. As one defence industry source said: "Al-Yamamah will continue for as long as there is that understanding between the two governments."

With British Aerospace as the prime contractor, present orders involve Tornados, three minesweepers being built by Vosper Thornycroft, 155mm artillery shells and Pilatus trainer aircraft.

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US calm over Fahd handover

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER

THE transfer of power from King Fahd to Crown Prince Abdullah caused faint apprehension in Washington yesterday. King Fahd has always been a strong and reliable American ally, as he proved during the Gulf War, but the Crown Prince is believed to be more conservative and more of an Arab nationalist.

The White House said yesterday that it saw "nothing startling" in his elevation. Other experts said the same small group of Saudi royals would continue to make the decisions and predicted no dramatic changes of policy, but America does have important interests at stake.

Saudi Arabia is the world's largest oil exporter and America's main supplier, and there is some concern that the Crown Prince could cut production to raise prices. Shibley Telhami, a Middle East expert at Cornell University, said yesterday, however, that "market considerations are going to be dominant".

Husain to honour Rabin in Tel Aviv

BY MICHAEL BINOV, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

KING HUSAIN of Jordan, whose funeral tribute to Yitzhak Rabin was considered among the most moving, will open a trauma unit next week named after the late Israeli Prime Minister at the Tel Aviv hospital where he died.

The symbolic gesture will be the highpoint of the King's first official visit to Israel, which will set a formal seal on his country's peace treaty with its neighbour signed in 1994.

A planned visit last year was postponed by the Rabin assassination but the King led the mourners at the state funeral.

The King will underline his respect for the late Israeli leader when he visits the square where Rabin was shot in his funeral oration. He referred to Rabin as a "brother" — a phrase that moved many Israelis, but which raised hackles among many Arabs. His gesture in opening the new hospital unit is a defiant rebuff to Jordanian critics of the peace agreement.

The King will go on to Galilee in northern Israel to the site where the peace treaty

was negotiated to present with Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, peace medals to the two chief negotiators — Fayed Tarawneh, now Jordan's Ambassador in Washington, and Eliahu Rubinstein, Israel's representative.

Tel Aviv will be virtually sealed during the brief visit, with high-level security. The King will return to Jordan the same day.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli Foreign Minister, arrived in Amman yesterday to plan the King's visit next Wednesday and review progress on implementing the peace treaty. He and the King announced after talks that the two countries would sign all remaining agreements to normalise relations and cultural links.

"Before the end of the month, we will sign five bilateral accords covering telecommunication, a common airport at Aqaba-Eilat on the Red Sea, science and technology, transport and maritime boundaries," said Abdul Karim al-Kabir, the Jordanian Foreign Minister.

Hamas withdrawal undermines Palestinian poll

FROM ROSS DUNN
IN JERUSALEM

THESE Islamists, the only real opposition to Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, suddenly withdrew from the first Palestinian elections yesterday throwing the credibility of the contest further into doubt.

Their decision is certain further to han international public perception of elections and of Mr Arafat, who was last week accused of manipulating the process after his security officials jailed a Palestinian newspaper editor for five days for faking a story praising him on the front page. News of the

withdrawal of the Islamists coincided with the announcement by the Palestinian Central Election Commission yesterday that the campaign for the January 20 poll is now officially under way. The date had been brought forward but, after criticism by European Union and other international election monitors that the campaigning period was not long enough, it has again been put back.

Ghassan Khatib, publisher of the *Palestine Report* and a respected commentator, spoke out strongly yesterday against the Palestinian Authority's constant breaching of its own election laws. "The party in power [the PLO] is manipulating

the election procedures to suit its political needs," he said. He said the authority had extended the date for registration to allow the entry of three independent candidates who had strong ties to Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement. Now the same candidates had announced that they would not be standing despite the bending of the rules to accommodate them.

Their withdrawal from the contest means that at least 30 per cent of all Palestinians in the Gaza Strip who are estimated to support Hamas have lost the chance to elect strong candidates to represent their views. In a statement issued yesterday,

Ismail Haniya, Khalid al-Hindi and Zaid al-Namrouti said they had withdrawn their nominations because of deep divisions among hardline Muslims over whether any of their number should give legitimacy to the elections. The armed wing of Hamas is strongly opposed to the peace process with Israel, and has claimed responsibility for many of the suicide bombing attacks that have killed more than 100 Israelis in the past two years.

Mr Khatib, who met Mr Arafat last week, said yesterday that the membership of the Central Election Commission was itself a breach of the electoral laws. "According to the

text of the law, it should be composed of independent, neutral judges and high academics but in practice it is headed by a Fatah personality ... and there are another three pure Fatah members on the commission, which is in breach of the law."

Mr Khatib said, however, that there was also a positive side to the elections. "In the short term they will strengthen the position of Mr Arafat, but in the long term they are an educational process and should end up improving the sense of democracy. They will gradually create a system of accountability and transparency leading to efficiency in the political structure," he said.

The latest relocation order was lifted five days after a scientific review of the volcano showed that its activity had stabilised. The continued quiet prompted Montserrat's Government to lift the relocation order for all of the island except for a small section about a mile and a half from the volcano.

More than a third of Montserrat's 11,000 people, including residents of the capital, Plymouth, had been living away from their homes since the beginning of December. At the time, scientists said that the rise of magma within Chancery's Peak volcano threatened the southern part of the tiny island with a deadly lava flow. The volcano in Montserrat's Soufrière Hills burst into life last July, spewing ash four miles into the air. The nearest town is about 30 miles away.

The volcano in Montserrat's Soufrière Hills burst into life last July, spewing ash four miles into the air. The nearest town is about 30 miles away.

The going rate for playing the *Phantom of the Opera* on Broadway is just \$500 a week, with no perks or percentages. Julie Andrews in the film version of *Victor/Victoria* is earning her \$72,000 a week



Julie Andrews in the film version of *Victor/Victoria*. On Broadway the role is earning her \$72,000 a week

rock after being largely inactive for more than 100 years. Continued activity after that explosion prompted an evacuation of the southern portion of the island in August. That relocation ended after two weeks when the volcano again became quiet. In November the activity began again.

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■ Moscow: The Karymskaya volcano erupted in Russia's Far Eastern Kamchatka peninsula yesterday after a powerful earthquake. Media reports said it was spewing hot ash four miles into the air. The nearest town is about 30 miles away.

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TOKEN FOUR

Thinking thin for spring



With temperatures recently at an all-time low, it may seem odd to be looking at the new season's styles. But rather like the holiday industry, the fashion business functions with its finger permanently on the fast-forward button.

The Times asked leading names in the fashion world to gaze into the near future to foretell what looks will be hot and what the must-have items will be this year.

The overall mood appears to be pared-down and pin-thin. Silhouettes stay close to the body, and superfluous detail is dispensed with. The accent is on shape, colour and fabric: black and white offset with sharp citrus hues (lime green, lemon yellow, orange) or any

shade of blue from sky to midnight. Pattern is, once again, big news.

Matt jersey makes a comeback, as does shantung. Both were favourites in the 1970s. Nylon and polyester are now elevated to the high-fashion catwalk as designers take inspiration from the dowdy and downtrodden—also known as "trailer-park chic".

The cleverer designers have simply refocused their vision by re-evaluating and repackaging the classics. They offer a wardrobe which is both comfortable and easy, certainly something to look forward to.

DONNA KARAN
Fashion designer

Hot new looks: body-slung, bias-cut hipster pants and skirts (any length — it's up to

the woman who wears them); midriff shells (button-back, sleeveless tops revealing the midriff); leather pieces; colourful new fabrics — stretch synthetics, glazed linen, shantung and stretch jersey.

Personal must-have items: a white leather jacket or coat, bias-cut trousers, jersey shirt and skirt, kaftan tunic, cashmere sweaters, a citrus, double-faced clutch coat, and an evening wrap.

ALEXANDRA SHULMAN
Editor, *Vogue*

This spring's fashion must-haves will be the button-through dress which can be worn a million ways and found everywhere, from international designers to the high street. The low-heeled Gucci slingback is winning, too.

FLORENCE TORRENS
PR, Russell & Bromley

The new flat shoe is a must for 1996: wearable and utterly modern. Square-cut with a low block heel, it is the wear-anywhere pump. To thong are the summer sandals, always square cut & block heeled. They put toes on display with the newest colour for nails: white. The shoulder-bag makes a comeback. Best are slim shapes with "midi"-length straps designed to fit neatly under the arm. Anything in citrus brights.

BETTY JACKSON
Fashion designer

What will make headlines in 1996? The return of the long skirt — and new, modern fabrics. What new looks will be hot in the new year? Simple, streamlined shapes with minimal details, monochrome and bold blocks of colour, flat sandals. Must-have items: wrap sunglasses and the streamlined zip windcheater jacket.

GIANNI VERSACE
Fashion designer

Revitalised classics. Long forgotten garments such as the shantung can be reclaimed with a new attitude and earn their place of honour in women's wardrobes both for day and evening wear. Black and white are the indisputable stars with flashes of bold, almost fluorescent colours. Fabrics will be light, diaphanous, transparent and feminine to emphasis this "soft and light" style.

Fashion journalist of the year



IAIN R. WEBB

PAUL FRITH

Fashion designer

Headlines: showgirls and strippers in sequins and beads, pearls and bows with sassy singhats. Think Vegas and motels, sleazy neon and glitz. Taffeta for day. Polyester for evening. Must-haves: a lime satin, puff-sleeve shirtdress, a fawn knee-length pencil skirt worn with a cashmere sleeveless top.

LISA ARMSTRONG

Associate editor, *Vogue*

The news now is in cut items — as opposed to entire looks — that will update existing clothes in your wardrobe: the Gucci silver G hipster belt, the flat strap, U-shaped bag, the flat flip-flop.

GIANFRANCO FERRE

Fashion designer

Intentionally I fine-tuned my fashion vision even further this season, choosing to eliminate all overlapping, encumbering elements. For daytime: a black stretch suit, a jacket that naturally defines the body, tapered pants or long skirt. For evening: essential tunics in essential colours (white, blue and red) made glamorous by embroidery and sequin paillettes.

CLEMENTS RIBEIRO

Fashion design team

Headlines: bold use of prints, clashing florals, stripes and checks. Off-the-wall prints which look like 1950s-1970s wallpaper designs. Synthetic chic: the gentrification of polyester and nylon. Must-haves: striped cashmere twintset, suit with a shirt which doubles as a jacket, diagonal check skirt and stretch cashmere mismatching top, floral print

Shape of things to come: **DONNA KARAN**, centre, offers an evening wrap which is simply gorgeous. Karan has pared down her summer collection into elemental essentials.

RALPH LAUREN, left, steals the show with his shantung silk shirtdress. The button-through dress is this season's must-have and will be available at every price.

JIL SANDER, right, makes glamorous basics the basis for this summer's wardrobe.

Photographs by CHRIS MOORE

shirtdress. All these items make up the two newest directional fashion looks: suburban couture and 1970s housewife chic.

KARL LAGERFELD

Fashion designer

Colour is back and minimalism will lead to boredom in the end. For the rest, let's wait for the collections.

GLENDA BAILEY

Editor, *Marie Claire*

Anything in shantung, especially Ralph Lauren's shirtdress in blue or dark oyster. Whistles has done a more affordable version.



GUCCI, left, has accessories to die for — the hipster belt, the sandal and shoulder bag. Centre, **CALVIN KLEIN**'s bold tick and white silhouette. Right, **BETTY JACKSON**'s streamlined jacket.

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Magnus Linklater and Giles Whittell in Los Angeles on a controversial theory that emotional intelligence can affect success in later life

What is intelligence? Is it something that can simply be measured by IQ tests, or does it depend on emotions and the way they are controlled? A new book, which has leapt to the top of the bestseller lists in America, explores the way we behave and what that reveals about our abilities. Next week, *Emotional Intelligence*, by Daniel Goleman, is published in Britain.

The best way to understand "emotional intelligence" is to consider a group of four-year-old children which is offered a tempting choice: they can have, as a treat, one marshmallow each; what is more, they can have it now—instant gratification. On the other hand, by waiting until their teacher returns from running an errand, they can have two marshmallows.

It is a battle between impulse and restraint, desire and self-control. Some of the children hesitate momentarily, then, as soon as the teacher has left the room, grab their single marshmallows. Others, however, wait for what must seem an endless 15 to 20 minutes, covering their eyes.

Some people have the emotional armoury to succeed in life, no matter how high their IQ

resting their heads on their arms, talking to themselves to distract them from the temptation in front of them. Finally, they win their reward. The teacher returns, and two marshmallows are theirs.

But this experiment, carried out in the 1960s at a pre-school on the Stanford University campus in America, has gone further. Researchers followed up the children 12 to 14 years later when they were adolescents graduating from high school. They found dramatic social differences between the instant-eaters and the delayers. The ones who had resisted temptation as four-year-olds seemed to have built up those qualities of self-restraint. They were more socially competent, more mature, more personally effective than the instant-eaters. They seemed better able to cope with the frustrations of life and to be on more relaxed terms with teachers and pupils. What is more, when they were tested later as they prepared to go on to university, they were more likely to score well in exams.

The so-called Mischel Test – named after the psychologist Walter Mischel – is just one of the examples cited by Goleman, a writer on science for *The New York Times*. He argues for a more effective definition of what constitutes

Why your child's EQ can matter more than IQ



intelligence. Goleman claims to find it in the emotional armoury with which certain people are equipped, and which allows them to succeed in life in a way which others cannot match, however high their IQ. He cites the example of graduates and school-leavers with impressive lists of academic qualifications who fail to make the grade in later life, whether in business, professionally or personally. In contrast, there are those with fewer intellectual attainments who nevertheless become leaders.

Emotional intelligence is a far broader definition of intelligence than a simple measurement of IQ. It can include dexterity of speech (verbal alacrity), physical co-ordination of the body and mind (kinesthetic intelligence) and visual awareness (spatial capacity), such as that demonstrated by an architect.

Goleman's book is seen as a

firm riposte to *The Bell Curve*, the notorious work by Richard Herrnstein and Charles Murray, which argued that IQ is genetic and varies from race to race.

Whether Goleman has stumbled on anything new is doubtful. From Aristotle to B.F. Skinner, via Erasmus and Nietzsche, philosophers and behavioural psychologists have argued about the nature of intelligence and attempted to define its origins. On one level, Goleman is adding just another layer to the "nature v nurture" argument, exploring the formative periods of our lives and tracing the origins of our varying characters back to our genetic roots and the way in which we have been treated in childhood.

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nurture" argument, exploring the formative periods of our lives and tracing the origins of our varying characters back to our genetic roots and the way in which we have been treated in childhood.

However, Goleman, citing work by Joseph LeDoux, a neuroscientist from New York University, says that it is possible for extreme reactions, such as panic or rage, to be prompted by signals transmitted directly to the amygdala, a cluster of interconnected structures above the brainstem, near the bottom of the limbic ring. There are two of them, on either side of the brain, and LeDoux claims to have demonstrated that they can take control over what we do, by-

passing the neocortex while it is still coming to a decision. The impulse that prompts a panicking bank-robbert to shoot a hesitating clerk, or drives a passer-by to plunge into an icy river to save a drowning child, comes, he says, direct from the amygdala. He calls it "emotional hijacking".

LeDoux believes it offers a rapid way to turn on emotions.

"But it's a quick-and-dirty process; the cells are fast but not precise." That is the reaction may be speedy, but it may be wrong. Goleman goes on to argue that in some people the neocortex is more easily bypassed than in others, and that this explains why they overreact to provocations or emergencies, while others handle them calmly. This is dangerous territory, suggesting that the brain is subject to genetic imperfections which can perhaps be altered by some kind of lobotomy.

Goleman is on safer ground when he argues that achieving a balance between the emotional and the thinking parts of our characters is the key to reaching intelligent decisions. We should, he says, learn to understand our emotions and use them, rather than be dominated by them. This concept, too, is familiar ground: "know thyself" is, after all, a maxim that can be traced back to ancient Greece. Goleman quotes Antoine de St Exupéry, the author of *The Little Prince*: "It is with the heart that one sees rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye."

Goleman concludes that emotional intelligence should be applied in the office as well as in the home or the classroom. The age of the overbearing, arrogant management approach is over, he says, to be replaced by a more sensitive style.

The "jungle fighter" boss, who rules by fear and manipulation, gets less out of the workforce than the manager who sets out to establish a close rapport with the employees.

"The jungle fighter is out of date," says a Harvard Business School psychologist quoted by Goleman. "The virtuous in interpersonal skills

is the corporate future." Or, as the management consultant cited in the book says: "Stress makes people stupid."

Central to Goleman's argument is the idea that the rules which govern the emotions, and can therefore condition intelligence, can be taught. He believes that schools ought to take on board the idea of teaching "emotional literacy" to children who do not receive it in their own homes, and who may, therefore, be unable to cope with pressure in the classroom or the playground.

They may be the bullies, the disruptive ones, or possibly the victims – the shy and retiring types who simply retreat from school life.

"Whether or not there is a class explicitly devoted to emotional literacy may matter far less than how the lessons are taught," he writes.

There is perhaps no subject

where the quality of the teacher matters so much, since how a teacher handles the class is in itself a model, a de facto lesson in emotional competence – or the lack thereof.

Whenever a teacher responds to one student, 20 or 30 others will learn a lesson."

Not perhaps, a startlingly

original conclusion, but one

which any education system,

whether emotionally intelligent or not, has to take on board if schools are to cope with today's pupils in a new age of anxiety.

• *Emotional Intelligence: Why it can matter more than IQ*, by Daniel Goleman, will be published on January 11 by Bloomsbury, £16.99.



Architect Richard Rogers shows spatial skills



Dancer Darcy Bussell has kinesthetic ability



Presenter Jeremy Paxman has verbal alacrity

UNDERSTAND YOUR EMOTIONS

□ Recognising your emotions the more you know about how you react to different situations, the more you grow familiar with your emotions. Monitoring your feelings is an important step towards self-understanding. If, by contrast, you allow them to overwhelm you without understanding why, you will be left at their mercy. Self-aware people tend to have a surer sense about the key decisions in their lives.

□ Managing emotions the more self-aware you become, the more you learn how to control your emotions so that you respond properly to situations. You learn how to deal with anxiety, and to handle depression and anger. Realising what happens when you fail to do so is an important step towards managing emotions. People who are vulnerable to these overwhelming feelings of gloom or irritability find themselves struggling with them rather than being able to hold them in balance and make a quick recovery.

□ Self-motivation: you can learn to guide your emotions and use them to achieve objectives by focusing on goals and mastering negative impulses, such as self-doubt or apathy, that hold you back. This may be a question of self-control, of holding off instant gratification, or of controlling impulsive behaviour. It enables you to be productive.

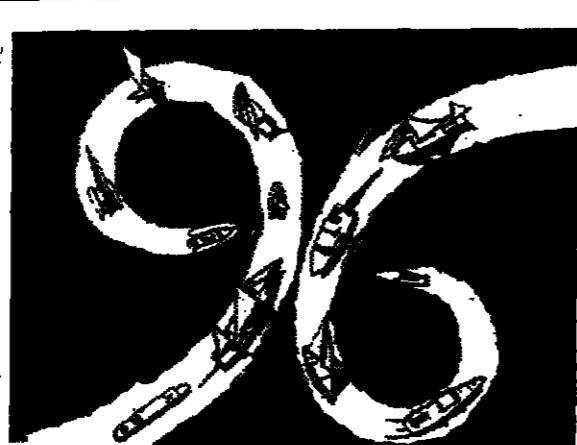
□ Recognising emotion in others: this is at least as important as understanding your own emotions. This means developing a sensitivity to the way people behave and why. If, on the other hand, you are "emotionally tone-deaf" you will miss the subtle indicators which demonstrate whether a friend or colleague is reacting well or badly to what is happening around them. This is just as true of a social situation or a relationship as it is of a tense boardroom discussion.

□ Handling relationships: it follows that by understanding these emotional signals, you can guide events more successfully. Establishing a good relationship depends on being able to respond appropriately to other people's emotions as well as your own. It is a key component of popularity, leadership and effectiveness in dealing with others.

Whenever a teacher responds to one student, 20 or 30 others will learn a lesson."

Not perhaps, a startlingly original conclusion, but one which any education system, whether emotionally intelligent or not, has to take on board if schools are to cope with today's pupils in a new age of anxiety.

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INSIDE SECTION
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HARBINGERS OF SPRING:
Times critics select the best plays, films, operas, ballet and art exhibitions of the coming season, page 31

Ireland's ceasefire is over

The IRA is killing more people than before, says Kevin Myers

I let us go carefully again over the words issued at midnight on August 31, 1994. "Recognising the potential of the current situation and in order to enhance the democratic peace process and underline our definitive commitment to its success the leadership of Oglach na hEireann [the IRA] have decided that as of midnight, Wednesday 31 August, there will be a complete cessation of military operations. All our military units have been instructed accordingly."

Because the IRA did not use the word "permanent", Unionists complained that "complete" was inadequate. Not at all, both Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein-IRA repeatedly assured everybody. "Complete" was good enough — *complete* in all its meanings.

Last year, the SDLP leader John Hume, who had done much to promote the ceasefire, exasperatedly told a television interviewer who was pressing him on this, "You don't understand, it's over."

It is not. What is over is the ceasefire as understood by everyone that bright morning of September 1, 1994. Nobody likes saying this, because it appears to be unhealthy to announce such an unpleasant truth. But it is so.

The IRA declared a "complete cessation of military operations". It did not exclude any categories of human being from its ceasefire: it did not say that the war against the British or the Unionists alone was over, but that social miscreants beware: it declared a *complete* end to military activity.

In the past couple of months the IRA has murdered seven Catholic men in Northern Ireland. Each one of these killings required a resumption of military activity. So the complete cessation of military activity is over. The IRA is in business again, even while Senator George Mitchell's disarmament commission is doing its best to turn the gun out of Northern Ireland's political culture.

The problem is that the gun has been present throughout the history of both Irish states. The state of Northern Ireland grew from an armed conspiracy to prevent all-Ireland Home Rule 84 years ago. The Irish Republic grew from the barrel of the gun. The Sinn Fein-IRA memory is perverse and wildly selective, but this truth it clings to ferociously. What they are, others were.

Meanwhile, Unionists have been observing the melancholy procession of coffins leaving Catholic ghettos and asking, "What sort of ceasefire is this?" One Northern Ireland politician went so far as to say, "The choice is clear and unambiguous: either Sinn Fein or the IRA respect the wishes of the Irish people and end their violence now — totally and permanently — or they are removed from any further involvement in the process of creating peace and a new political dispensation."

These tough words were spoken not by a Northern Unionist but a Northern nationalist.

Eighty years after the Easter Rising, the aim remains

But let us cling to that big if. The IRA is not yet back on the warpath generally. It is merely targeting some Roman Catholic men. So working-class Catholic males now find themselves a lesser species, dispensable and politically unprotected. Their deaths apparently violate no essential accord or ceasefire.

Sixteen months of a "complete cessation of military activities" have bred a general and slothful passivity. Few people in Northern Ireland now have the energy and application required for war, or are prepared to accept the hazards which come with it. But it is clear that IRA hardliners prefer the rule of their guns to the political requirements of the leadership faction of Adams and McGuinness.

The IRA might still call off this wave of killings, but it is not going to disarm. This year is the 50th anniversary of the Easter Rising against British rule in Ireland. George Mitchell will disarm the Michigan Militia before the IRA surrenders its arsenals. Four score years after the Irish Republicans began their war to remove the British from Ireland by force of arms, the ambition has not been achieved. But nor, most importantly, has it been abandoned.

The author is a columnist for The Irish Times. Alan Caren will appear tomorrow.

THE MOST senior woman in the Foreign Office is on the point of leaving, after turning down the chance to become British Ambassador to Bonn. Pauline Neville-Jones, 55, political director, is said

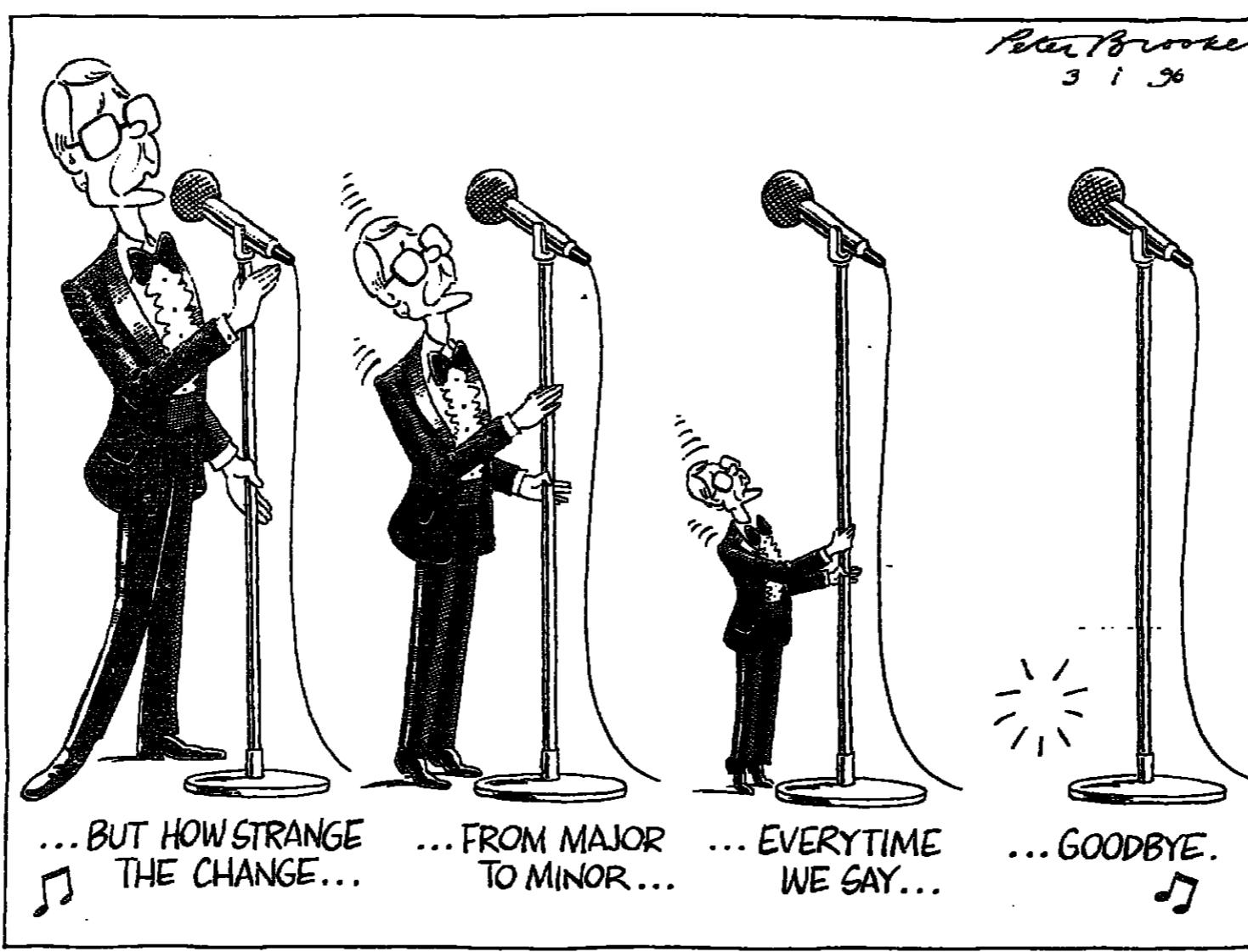
to be furious that she was not offered Paris, which has been taken by Michael Jay, a cerebral chap six years her junior.

Those who have known her for years say that the efficient, strong-willed manner in which she conducts her affairs was invaluable in dealing with the turbulent Boeians. But it hasn't proved sufficiently emollient for the niceties of diplomatic life.

For her part, Neville-Jones has perhaps had enough of what she may regard as a male-dominated club. She is expected to resign shortly to pursue her new career in a field where her robust attitude will be better valued.

There had been hopes in Downing Street that a woman would soon be given a major ambassadorial post, but the breakthrough will now have to wait. It was not until 1946, after a number of women had served in temporary posts with distinction during the war, that women were recruited to administrative grades. But as late as 1972 they were required to resign on marriage.

Members of the diplomatic old guard argue that Neville-Jones was given her chance in Bonn but



Time for an election

If John Major thinks he can hang on, he should think again. Sitting out will not improve his chances

Krecall a Sunday school teacher who had to answer the same question each week. "Please Miss, if God is so good why is the world so evil?" The teacher did not subscribe to the Manichaean heresy. Her response would have won plaudits from a Downing Street spin-doctor. "The world is not as bad as television says... Disasters are sent to test us... God is getting His message across... Come Judgement Day the feelgood factor will bring final victory." I marvelled childishly at her ingenuity and wondered how much God was paying her.

John Major faces the same line of questioning, at least from himself. He tries so hard, yet every day he reads the front pages and feels his eyelids droop over his Weetabix. The bowl seems full of piranhas, defying every little dare he erects against them. His spoon cannot scoop up one mouthful of Weetabix that does not have piranhas in it. He means well. He really cares. There is nothing honest John would not do to give a guy a break, to win a smile and raise a vote. But all he can see are Emma Nicholson and Spanish trawlers and Michael Portillo and water board chairmen and piranhas. They may be God's creatures, but why are they all in his cereal bowl? It is unfair.

No general election is over until it is over. This year, many a clever pundit will explain that Tony Blair can still collapse and the Tories bring down a coup. We shall learn that Labour has a talent for alienating the electorate and has won just three full-term elections since the war. We shall learn of the unreliability of voting-intention questions in the opinion polls: the pro-Government "swing" during campaigns; of feelgood factors just round the corner and of Mr Blair and his team becoming more shopsoiled the longer they are left on the shelf. In 1996, we shall be told, Mr Major has many stages on which to find glory in Ulster. He might find glory in Ulster, even in monetary union.

All these factors can be reckoned to favour the Tories, and thus make it worth hanging on even in a minority administration. Such arguments are cited by the grey-suited ones who gather round Mr Major's fire of an evening to swap jokes about Brian Mawhinney and tell each other the Good News about the Tory record that evil newspapers will not print. The Prime Minister's entourage has acquired some of the middle-brow camaraderie of Wilson's "Wincarnis"

kitchen cabinet. Its loyalty must bring a tear to the boss's eye. His reaction is, "Why spoil it? As long as the whips can sell some honours and deliver a periodic confidence vote, the team can hang on. It may be "in office but not in power", but our house has its compensations.

This does not wash. For a progressive recovery in Mr Major's electoral prospects into 1997 to be plausible, some desperate assumptions are required. His Government must be ready to lose its majority with dignity after another defection or by-election, and then form an Ulster Unionist coalition with equal dignity. I find this near inconceivable.

It must be able to pass measures such as the Budget without substantive defeat or see its economic strategy ruined. Labour yesterday promised to make this difficult.

The Cabinet must be ready to abandon any contentious measure opposed by even the smallest handful of disaffected backbenchers.

This must render most legislation unpassable without Labour support — the Divorce Bill might be an instance.

Mr Major has disappointed too many backbenchers to expect any resurgent loyalty this year. Emma Nicholson was not famous for malice.

What bitterness and frustration can have driven her to the savage timing of her defection this Christmas? There may be just half a dozen MPs of like mind, but that is all it would take to wipe out Mr Major's paper majority. On most substantive votes, that majority must have gone already. There must be dozens of Tories with little hope of office or of re-election who wonder why they should postpone the start of a new career until the middle of 1997.

Meanwhile the dreary steeples of Fermanagh and Tyrone will again cast their shadow over Westminster. Mr Major must stall peace talks in Northern Ireland beyond all reasonable patience. The IRA decommissioning row is not some farcicalness on the British Government's part. Without it, at least some Unionists will simply walk out of any peace talks. Indeed they may not even walk in. This crisis was bound to come sooner or later. Mr Major must now seek frantic postponement, if only because the official Unionists will not want to be outflanked in intransigence by the Paisleyites. Whether this stalling can be sustained throughout 1996, and with a Cabinet patently kowtowing to the Unionists, is surely doubtful.

Cardinal Cahal Daly warned the Government as much on Sunday.

By early next year, the Government could have two other diplomatic defeats on its hands: the collapse of the Bosnian ceasefire after the promised withdrawal of Nato units, and a failure

to halt the introduction of a Franco-German Euro-currency. The first

may be postponed at great cost in troops and money, but the second cannot. Mr Major may believe he can expose Mr Blair's weakness for a Euro-currency. But it is unlikely that this will compensate for another year of guerrilla war from his own Eurosceptics. Many of the latter will be demob happy and all but beyond the whips' control.

I

Simon Jenkins

Simon Jenkins

SOCIAL NEWS

Birthdays today

Brigadier Sir John Anstey, former president, National Savings Committee, 89; Mr David Atherton, conductor, 52; Earl Baldwin of Bewdley, 58; Mr John Bambrough, former Principal, Linacre College, Oxford, 75; Mr Michael Barratt, broadcaster, 68; Mr Victor Borge, pianist and comedian, 87; Sir Robin Butler, Cabinet Secretary, 58; Sir Bryan Carsberg, former Director-General, Office of Fair Trading, 57; Lord Colyton, 94; Mr Fran Cotton, rugby player, 48; Sir Alastair Forbes, former president, Court of Appeal, Gibraltar, 88; Mr Mel Gibson, actor, 40; Sir Richard Hanbury-Tenison, Lord Lieutenant of Gwent, 71; Sir Roy Harding, education consultant, 72; Mr Gavin Hastings, rugby player, 34; Mr Robert Hughes, MP, 64; Admiral Sir Michael Layard, 60; Miss Anya Linden, ballerina, 63; Mr Eric Marlow, MP, 47; Sir Carol Mather, former MP, 77; Mr Siegmund Nissel, former member, Amadeus Quartet, 74; Sir John Riddell, extra equerry to the Prince of Wales, 62; Miss Elyris Roberts, former deputy director, Consumers' Association, 85; Mr Graham Ross Russell, former chairman, EMAP, 63; Mr Nicholas Scheels, chairman and chief executive, Jaguar, 52; Mr Michael Schumacher, racing driver, 27; Mr R.R. Steedman, architect, 67; Mr Matthew Taylor, MP, 33; Mr John Thaw, actor, 54; Mr David Vine, sports commentator, 61.

Antony C.W. Norman

A memorial service for Antony Charles Wynnard Norman, OBE, will be held on Wednesday, January 10, 1996, at noon at St Clement Dines, Strand, WC2.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.

Latest wills

Elsie McIndoe, of Stockport, Greater Manchester, left estate valued at £8,729,425 net.

She left £1,000 to Gerry Abraham, and the residue equally between her nephews and nieces.

Mr John Christopher Cadbury, of Wyre Piddle, Worcestershire, the wildlife conservationist, President of the Royal Society for Nature Conservation 1962-85 and grandson of George Cadbury, a founder of the chocolate manufacturers, left estate valued at £626,653.

He left his holdings of 4% Treasury Stock 2013 to the Royal Society for Nature Conservation to be divided equally between the Cadbury Endowment Fund and Manning Cadbury Endowment Fund, together with land, assets and £10,000 in Worcestershire to the Worcestershire Nature Conservation Trust.

The Right Hon Patrick Owen Alexander Davison, 2nd Baron Broughshane, of Sandwich, Kent, Assistant Secretary (military) to the War Cabinet 1942-45, left estate valued at £2,150,688 net.

Mrs Susan Ruth Beck, of London NW1, left estate valued at £1,025,000, effects and property to personal legatees, to Leo Beck College, London N3; a library of books the writing desk of the late Rabbi Dr

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman, Arpinum, Latiom, 106 BC; Pietro Antonio Metastasio, poet, Rome, 1698; Sir James Stephen, colonial administrator and historian, Lambeth, 1789; Robert Whitehead, inventor, Bolton-le-Moors, Lancashire, 1823; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, Prime Minister 1945-51, London, 1883; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, London, 1888; James Bridie (Osborne Henry Maylor), dramatist, Glasgow, 1888; J.R.R. Tolkien, scholar and writer, Bloemfontein, South Africa, 1892.

DEATHS: Josiah Wedgwood, potter, Burslem, Staffordshire, 1795; Rachel (Eliza Felix), actress, Cannes, 1855; Pierre Larousse, lexicographer, 1875; William Harrison Ainsworth, historical novelist, Reigate, Surrey, 1882; James Elroy Flecker, poet, Davos, Switzerland, 1915; Jaroslav Hasek, novelist, Lipnice, Czechoslovakia, 1923; William Joyce (Lord Haw-Haw), traitor, executed, London, 1946; Edwin Muir, writer, Cambridge, 1959; Conrad Hilton, hotel magnate, California, 1979.

Martin Luther, founder of Protestantism, was excommunicated, 1521.

The siege of Sidney Street took place when anarchists led by "Peter the Painter" were besieged by police in the East End of London, 1911.

Howard Carter discovered the sarcophagus in the tomb of Tutankhamun in the Valley of the Kings, near Luxor, 1924.

Sir Edmund Hillary reached the South Pole, 1958.

International Monetary Fund £2,300m to Britain, 1977.

Appointment

British School at Athens Mr David Blackman, MA, FSA, to be Director of the British School at Athens in succession to Professor Richard Tomlinson.

Today's events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11am.

Performers learn how to make a business of the arts

All the action takes place Off Stage

BY KATE ALDERSON

STEVE Threlfall believes that without the help of Off Stage he would have abandoned his ambition to become a furniture designer and would never have learnt the business skills which have helped to launch his thriving business.

"Off Stage gave me support, marketing skills and business advice which proved a launch pad for my career," said Mr Threlfall, 26, who is exhibiting his furniture designs in London. "With their help I

graphic designers and photographers are among the 'arts workers' who use the centre as a subsidised workshop and to learn skills that will enable them to make a living out of their trades.

The centre, which moved into its current premises two-and-a-half years ago, was born out of a steering group which began meeting in 1990. Kate Stewart, the development manager, explained: "It was perceived that there needed to be a collective support system for arts workers, most of whom had not been able to make a living, and to do something more constructive than sitting around in a pub whingeing."

Before Off Stage Ms Stewart said, many arts workers in Liverpool did not believe they could get help to launch their careers. "There was a feeling of isolation but people now come to Off Stage and meet other people and work in a thriving environment. We work with artists to build up their confidence so they can charge the proper price for their work and develop small business skills."

The centre, which has only one part-time paid member of staff plus volunteers, carried out research into what arts workers needed to learn to make a living. Now business tuition includes marketing, accountancy skills, planning and how to turn an art-form into an income.

As well as subsidised



Andy Gracie, an aerial performance artist, checks his accounts on a computer at the centre

workspace the building includes a basement gallery, two recording studios, four start-up units and a computer/library resource room. One quarter of the current annual funding of £40,000 comes from the Baring Foundation, another quarter from charged income and the rest from trust funds and investment from companies.

However, The Generator, an eight-week enterprise project held at the centre last year, raised cash from the Merseyside Training and Enterprise Council and the European Social Fund.

The Off Stage Community Arts Resource Centre is one of the winners of the 1995 Community Enterprise Awards, organised by Business in the Community and sponsored by The Times and Touche Ross.

showed my designs in New York and am taking up a residency at John Moores University, Liverpool."

Mr Threlfall is one of 200 regular annual users of the Off Stage Community Arts Resource Centre in Liverpool.

Off Stage, housed in Victorian buildings around a courtyard in the city centre, is an enterprise centre for the cultural industries and promotes artistic pursuits combined with business practice.

Musicians, dancers, actors,

and visual artists are welcome to attend the funeral service to be held at St George's Church, London W1 on Monday January 8th at 1 pm to be followed by a private service on Tuesday 9th January at 1 pm at Golders Green Crematorium. Family flowers only.

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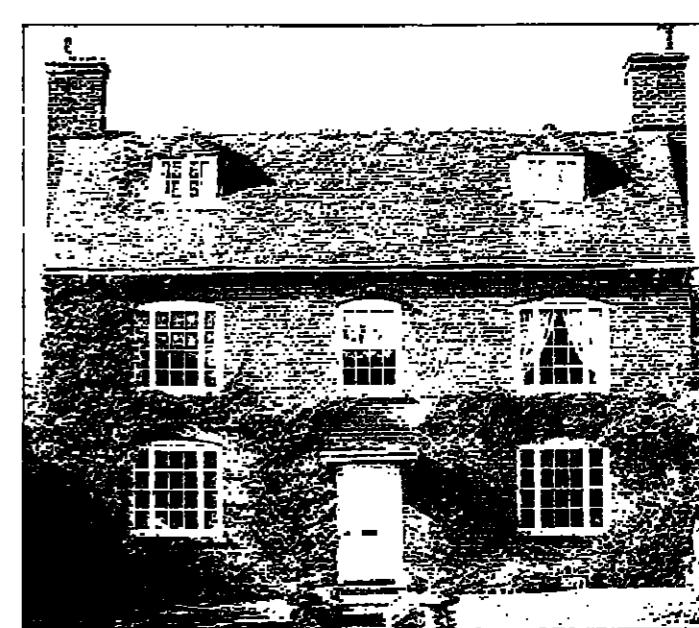
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Above: Ryman's, the 15th-century house near Chichester in West Sussex, and right: the sitting room of one of the newly built Berkeley Homes in Upper Hampstead Walk, London NW3



The 18th-century Parsonage Farmhouse in Pitton, Wiltshire, which has style, manageability, and a pretty garden of half-an-acre, which was sold two weeks after it was first advertised

Sold before the board goes up

What makes a house sell? That is the question on the lips of every family planning to move this year.

Estates agents are fond of the reply that good houses in good locations always sell. But properties which have had a "Sold" sign slapped over their "For Sale" board within days, if not hours, could prove a better guide to success. Their individual sales histories could hold lessons for this new year.

With the help of Savills and Knight Frank, *The Times* has trawled the files from last year to find 1995's fastest selling houses. What were their secrets?

In the country, the best sellers seem to be pretty period properties with six acres, to the south and west of London. They are in or on the edge of a village, and have a sense of community while preserving some privacy. East Anglia is out. Berkshire and Hampshire are in. "I could sell 100 of these houses next week," says Patrick Ramsay, from Knight Frank. Buyers are no longer interested in trophy houses with long drives and over-blown proportions. No one wants to be overhoused.

"Professionals are working longer hours these days," says Mr Ramsay. "So commuting distances are crucial. Top areas for 1996 are Henley, Ascot, Esher and Beaconsfield. Further afield, the west will fare best — the Downs around

Hungerford or the Cotswolds between Cirencester and Stow-on-the-Wold, which are popular because of their attractive countryside.

"Modern and period houses will both sell well this year," says Mr Ramsay. "The ones that fall between these two stools will be harder to sell, that is, architect-designed houses that now look old-fashioned, and 1920s and 1930s houses that remain unmodernised."

Five to eight bedrooms are ideal, says Mr Ramsay, and there ought to be at least three bathrooms, but preferably more. Period outbuildings are becoming increasingly popular as people want to have an office from home or house horses or cars. Fewer and fewer buyers want the hassle of six months of builders, and property in good condition is now at a premium.

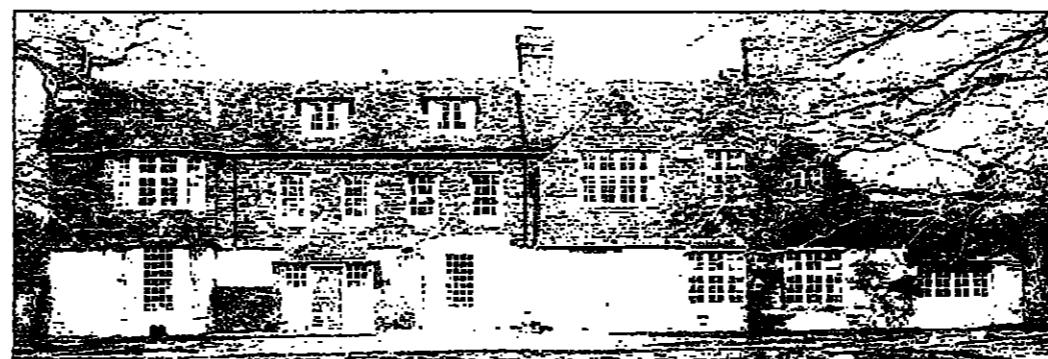
In London, the ideal comprises a combination of good proportions, high ceilings with original features, and state-of-the-art accessories. Wandsworth has established itself as an ideal family location, with Hampstead and Kensington remaining popular.

All agents stress the need for correct pricing. Price a house wrongly and it will fail to sell, thereby becoming tainted. But that, they say, is another article.

■ Hattingley House.

Hattingley, Hampshire. Hattingley was sold even before it was officially put on the market, for more than its £975,000 asking

All those who wish to move during 1996 will want to know what makes a house sell well and quickly. **Rachel Kelly** studies the best-selling houses of 1995 to find the answer



Hattingley House in Hattingley, Hampshire, which was sold before it came on the market

price. The house dates back to the 1530s with extensive Georgian and Victorian extensions. To the south is a stable which was once home to three British dressage champions, Wengel, Waldan and Royal Star, and now houses a fancy automatic central heating system. The house has a large hall, three reception rooms, seven bedrooms, a separate staff flat and a two-bedroom cottage to the north of the courtyard, plus nine acres and three post and rail paddocks.

Mr Ramsay, from Knight Frank, says: "This sold quickly because it is an attractive period house, within an hour's commuting of London, with paddocks, cottage and equestrian facilities, and with not too much land. It is the kind of manageable house that the newly rich want."

■ Upper Hampstead Walk.

London NW3. Berkeley Homes did well last year by concentrating on the top end of the market which has been perkier than the vast rump of less distinguished housing. In Hampstead, Victorian buildings have been refurbished and new townhouses built at Upper Hampstead Walk, with prices for 57 new homes

between £155,000 and £685,000. Half of the development was sold in three weeks.

Grant Alexson, of Knight Frank, says: "The strength of the sales shows the continuing demand for high-quality townhouses and flats in Hampstead. The houses have been built with the best kind of fittings in their kitchens and bathrooms. Busy professionals will pay not to have the hassle." The development has car parking spaces, some underground, and a gym. These are the kind of American-style extras now commanding a premium in a market with largely

ageing and dilapidated housing stock.

"And, of course," Mr Alexson says, "this is the right location. Things haven't changed much since Robert Louis Stevenson said that Hampstead is the most delightful place for the air and the scenery near London. The area has a unique village atmosphere, a sense of space, and is within reach of central London."

■ Parsonage Farmhouse.

Pitton, Wiltshire. This 18th-century farmhouse was sold just two weeks after it was first advertised for sale for £285,000. Robin Gould from Savills says: "1995 was marked by buyers' selectiveness for better-quality houses. Parsonage Farmhouse offered the combination of style, manageability, and a pretty garden of just more than half an acre. For these reasons the house proved unbeatable in a market where not much quality property is being offered for sale."

■ Ryman's, near Chichester, West Sussex.

The Grade I listed house was advertised in *Country Life* in June, at between £600,000 and £650,000. By the following week, several firm offers had been made. Ten days later the eight-bedroom house, with its formal walled parterre gardens and 14 acres, was sold for more than its guide price.

Ian Stewart, from Savills, says: "Ryman's has the equivalent of sex appeal. It caught the imagination of

everyone who saw it. In fact the final buyers hadn't even been looking to buy when they happened to see it in *Country Life*. Last year we saw exceptional properties sell well: houses with that 'it' appeal. I think the same will be true during this year."

The appeal of Ryman's is that it combines 15th-century architecture with refit windows, a spiral staircase and square-topped windows with reveals. Ian Nairn, in the Sussex edition of *The Buildings of England*, writes: "The extreme deficiency of the paneling in the house is best seen in the wing, with its built-in garderobe and three windows of graduated size facing east, south, and west which admit different amounts of light in the workshop and bedroom. Here, the 15th century considered the quality of life with as much care as the most painstaking 20th-century designer. The bedroom has all three windows in authentic condition and an original fireplace."

■ Chester Square.

London SW1. A house in the square was sold before the completion of redevelopment for £3.5 million for an 89-year lease, to the chairman of an international company. Camilla Lindsay, from Knight Frank, says: "The house had air-conditioning, a lift and a garage — to have all three is rare in a London house. It was special because the buyer wished to design the interior to fit his own requirements."

Can there be a community spirit in a residential megalith? Guy Walters reports

New flats snapped up in the capital

New flats in London are outperforming much of the rest of the metropolitan property market. Agents report successful sales at developments such as County Hall, the former headquarters of the Greater London Council, which is being converted into 411 apartments. Buyers can enjoy a swimming pool, health club and gymnasium. Prices for one-bedroom apartments start at £90,000, and three-bedroom flats range from £250,000 to £375,000.

In Hampstead in north London, the decaying student union buildings of London University's old Westfield College are being razed. Out goes the subterranean dancefloor and airport-lounge bar and in comes a swimming pool, gym, sauna, spa and squash court for the residents of the 149 apartments and penthouses. Westfield will be completed at the end of 1997, but with a two-bedroom apartment costing about £350,000, and a 1,600 sq ft penthouse at £685,000, it is hardly likely to attract many of those graduates in search of nostalgia.

In Battersea, southwest London, Berkeley Homes is erecting Riverside Plaza, in which many of the 76 apartments have river views across to Chelsea Harbour. Prices start at £169,950 for two bedrooms, while £449,950 will buy a 1,755 sq ft apartment with three bedrooms over two floors. Riverside Plaza does not have a gymnasium, but it does have the Harbour Club just over Wandsworth Bridge.

Such developments, of which these three are typical, are becoming increasingly popular. More than 4,000 bedrooms' worth of such flats are coming on to the market in the next 36 months, and



County Hall, the river-front former headquarters of the Greater London Council, and (right) a bedroom in the converted building

many are situated in unfashionable parts of London.

Surely those who can afford £375,000 for three bedrooms would rather live in a more upmarket and established area such as Kensington? And wouldn't living in County Hall be like squatting in an anonymous Holiday Inn on the outskirts of Newark, New Jersey? In short, can there be a community spirit within a self-contained megapolis?

Alison Dean, of Savills, says: "The people who buy into these developments tend to be gregarious types who bring their own sense of community with them. A few years ago, many Londoners were against the notion of living in such places, but now they have warmed to them."

During one weekend at the end of October, 2,500 people visited County Hall, and 100 flats were sold in one day. Ms Dean regrets not moving into such a development herself.

Overseas buyers make up about 40 per cent of purchasers, attracted by the high finishes and problem-free properties on offer. Sixty per cent of apartments are sold to British buyers, some of whom use the properties as places where they

can spend weekends in the capital. Some foreigners, particularly the Chinese, buy the apartments for their children who are studying at British universities, and sell them at a small return when the degree is completed.

Others are attracted by the investment potential. At County Hall, for example, apartments could be let for an estimated yield of 9 and 13.5 per cent.

Many of the visitors at the County Hall weekend were hunt-

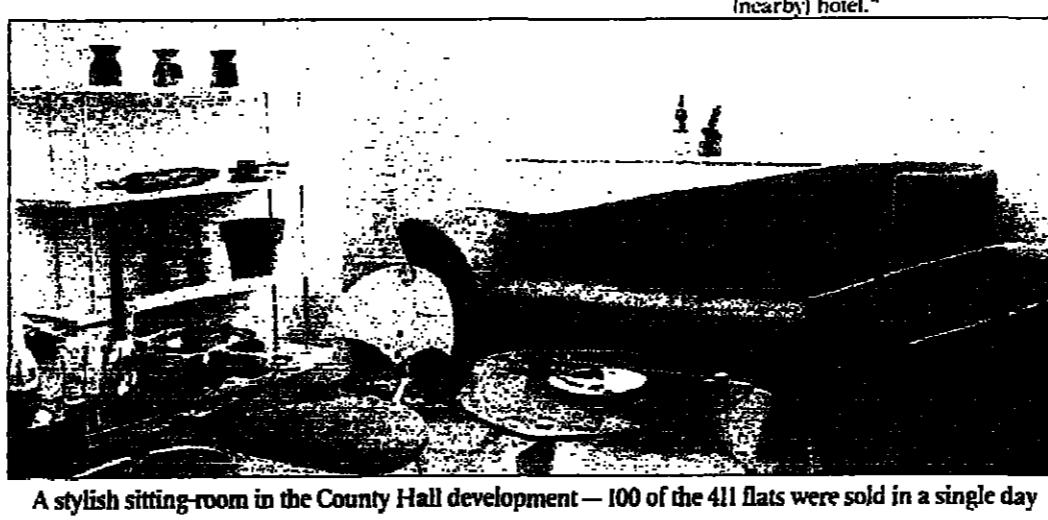
ing on behalf of elderly relatives: others were young couples buying for the first time. Most are attracted to these "mansions of the gods" by their low maintenance and security.

Few seem to be particularly interested in gyms. "What gyms represent is an image of a lifestyle," Ms Dean says. "And that is something that people buy into. They may, of course, never use the gym."

However, not all of these residen-

tial schemes are welling up in old offices and offbeat boroughs. LCR Developments is transforming the better part of Stanhope Gardens in South Kensington into two three- and four-bedroom apartments.

The blurb promises genteel living: "Plans for the development of the gardens include the provision of a tennis court and a croquet lawn. On fine days, residents will also be able to enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea served at tables on the lawn by waiters from the (nearby) hotel."



A stylish sitting room in the County Hall development — 100 of the 411 flats were sold in a single day

Don't forget to fix the flue

In the search for old-fashioned open fires, chimneys are often neglected

Blazing open fires are returning to living rooms. People living in modern homes want all the period features put in.

says Lucy Searle, of *HomeStyle* magazine.

The Solid Fuels Association has found that the number of people installing open fires from 1993 to 1995 leapt by 200,000 in an otherwise declining heating market. The Public Health (London) Act prohibits excessive smoke from chimneys, but smokeless fuels and appliances which keep fires burning longer make open fires easy to maintain.

"People want that old-world feel again," Roland Curtis, of the Solid Fuels Association (SFA), says. "No one snuggles up to a radiator."

Decorative as open fireplaces may be, many people do not appreciate the hazards of an unvented chimney. September to April is known as the "chimney fire season", and of the 1,000 fires that the Central Statistical Office records each year, most are caused by blocked flues.

The blurb promises genteel living: "Plans for the development of the gardens include the provision of a tennis court and a croquet lawn. On fine days, residents will also be able to enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea served at tables on the lawn by waiters from the (nearby) hotel."

Having the correct owl, a kind of chimney-pot hat with holes,

helps a fire to breathe. Of the 150 types on sale, only a few are suitable for solid-fuel fires. Martin Glynn, a sweep of 23 years, says ill-fitting cowls make his job "a nightmare" by not creating sufficient draught.

Another common cause of fire is the burning of household or bituminous wood. It may be cheap, but is dangerous if used before two years' storage. "People tend to pick up the wood and burn it while it's damp," Mr Glynn says. "The moisture causes tar to build up in the flue. It is highly flammable and catches light when the fireplace is reused."

The SFA recommends smokeless wood, which, although more expensive, burns longer and leaves less ash.

Attempts to light fires with paraffin or petrol is another cause of chimney fires. So, too, is the lack of sweeping. Chimneys should be cleaned at least twice a year.

It is important to have a chimney draught-checked when converting a fireplace. Sweeps use power-sweep machines to blow smoke up chimneys to check for leaks.

Because the heat from open fires is fierce, chimneys need to be robust. The National Fire Place Association says: "Should a chimney catch alight, it should always be tackled by the fire brigade. A fire that appears extinguished is often smouldering in the flue."

Close-mesh guards, regular sweeping and smokeless fuel are all help to avoid fires. Most importantly, have a fire alarm installed, Tony Mortimer, of the London Fire Brigade, says.

JENNIFER COX

• The Solid Fuels Association (0171-805 005); the National Fire Place Association (01994 713 553); the National Association of Chimney Sweeps (01785 811 732).

A LUXURY beach house in Hawaii has had its price slashed by £8.2 million to £5.8 million and American estate agents are marketing the house here in the hope of attracting a British buyer, *Jenni Cox* writes.

Bids are being sought for the Schutter Estate on Hawaii's island of Oahu. Once the home of successful American trial lawyer David Schutter, who in the 1980s borrowed heavily to indulge his hobby of entertaining America's sporting celebrities by building them a retreat, the estate was repossessed on November 1. The American firms Kennedy-Wilson

International and Conley Dew are selling the property for the Bank of Hawaii at a 60 per cent discount. For a quick sale the property is to be auctioned and a deadline of January 15 has been set for any offers.

The plot Mr Schutter secured was one of only half a dozen on the "millionaire's row" section of Kahala Beach, with a sandy beachfront. Here Robert Louis

Stevenson took walks and tea on the beach with the last king of Hawaii's daughter, whom he befriended before going on to Samoa. Sylvester Stallone, Lionel Richie and Shakira O'Neal are a few of the famous who have partied or worked out on the estate.

On an island famous for spectator sports, the facilities are unequalled. An underwater tunnel connects two swim-

ming pools; if the two-minute walk to the sea seems too far, there is also a spa, sauna, steam bath and a salt-water flotation tank. Although the Waialae golf course is within walking distance, the estate has a netted golf and batting cage plus two grass tennis courts, a basketball court, billiard table and exercise room.

Mr Schutter enjoyed the high life for a

decade before the bank called in the multi-million dollar loan used to build it. The entrance has doors sculpted from redwood and trimmed with copper. Windows extend 2 ft from floor to ceiling in the main living room and six skylights illuminate the atrium over an oak and smoked glass spiral staircase.

Guests can choose from 17 bedrooms and 21 bathrooms in the two buildings which make up the resort. At 700 sq ft, the master bedroom is the size of a small apartment, with Italian marble floors, sunken whirlpool bath and a large shower. Additional landscaping includes waterfalls, a fishpond and an outdoor pavilion, with views across the palm trees on the Hawaiian beachfront.

• The deadline for bids is January 15. Tom British time. Inquiries: Conley Dew Ltd, 201 Merchant Street, Ste. 3200, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 (808 524 2844) or Kennedy-Wilson International, 530 Wilshire Blvd, Ste. 101, Santa Monica, California 90401 (310) 522 0664.



ARTS 31-33

Is it wise for Portsmouth to get all lit up?



MEDIA 35

Steve Hewlett takes helm of bold new Panorama



SPORT 38-44

D'Oliveira feted on return to Cape Town

COMPUTER SKILLS THRIVE ON THE FARM
Secretarial 37

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1996

AT&T set for \$4bn charge to pay for shake-up

FROM RICHARD THOMSON
IN NEW YORK

AT&T, the US telecoms group, is taking a \$4 billion post-tax restructuring charge to pay for its planned split into three separate entities. The charge, thought to be the largest made by a company, will largely be used to pay for a massive programme of nearly 40,000 redundancies over the next three years.

The charge, which will be about \$6 billion before taxes, will cut AT&T's fourth-quarter profit by \$4 billion, or \$2.5 per share. Although the group has not yet announced its fourth-quarter figures, it is likely to plunge into loss because for the first nine months of the year, it made \$2.82 billion, or \$1.77 per share. Total profits for 1994 were \$4.7 billion with revenues of \$75 billion.

Although AT&T is implementing a voluntary redundancy programme, the take-up has been small so that about 30,000 will be forced layoffs. Moreover, about 70 per cent of the job cuts will fall this year. AT&T currently employs about 300,000.

"The reduction of our workforce will be the most difficult and painful step we've had to take in this restructuring process," said Robert Allen, the chairman. "But I believe the reductions and other actions are absolutely essential if our businesses are to be competitive."

The cuts are part of a plan to cut AT&T's costs and improve efficiency by dividing it into three independent companies based on core activities.

The largest of the new companies will be the reorganised AT&T telephone group, while another will provide network and business and consumer technology and software. The third, AT&T Global information solutions, is a computer company.

The redundancies will cost at least \$2.6 billion, while a further \$1.7 billion will be spent on writing down assets.

Forte pledges payout boost

By ERIC REGULY

Forte raised the stakes in its battle to remain independent by unveiling plans yesterday for an £800 million share buyback and a commitment to raise the dividend by 20 per cent in each of the next three years.

The company said it would also increase the final dividend in the current year by 21 per cent, making a total of 3.5p, and distribute its majority stake in the Savoy Hotel group to Forte shareholders.

The defence package boosted Forte shares 12.5p, to 34.5p, while shares of Granada, whose hostile offer is worth £3.2 billion, fell 3p, to 64.2p.

Granada has until Tuesday to revise its bid. The City, which was impressed by Forte's defence package, predicts that Granada will have to raise its offer by at least 10 per cent, to between 35p and 36p per share, if it hopes to win over institutional shareholders, such as Mercury Asset Management.

Forte's plan to repurchase 20 per cent of its share capital, designed to enhance earnings per share, is the centrepiece of the defence. At £800 million,



Sir Rocco Forte, second left, and his fellow board members, from left, Patrick Copeland, David Owen, Keith Hamill and Richard Power in London yesterday

which includes some £138 million in associated tax credits, it is considerably higher than the market was led to believe. The company, assuming Granada's takeover effort fails, will purchase the shares at prices ranging from 33p to 40p. No premium will be offered; the buyback will be priced at the market value of the shares on the day of the offer. Shareholders, for example, would receive £70 for every 100 Forte shares they own in a buyback at 33p. Those who are eligible for tax credits would end up with £84. In each case, they would retain 79 Forte shares.

Nigel Reed, an analyst at Paribas, said: "Investors now don't have to worry that the share price will drop away if the Granada bid fails because they can see it will be supported. Shareholders, for example, would receive £70 for every 100 Forte shares they own in a buyback at 33p. Those who are eligible for tax credits would end up with £84. In each case, they would retain 79 Forte shares.

The share repurchase will take place in March or April, after Forte completes the sale of its roadside restaurants to Whitbread for a net £60 million. It will push gearing up to 45 per cent, from the 8 per cent level that would be achieved after the sale of the roadside restaurants.

The dividend rise comes as no surprise. Forte had been saying that the turnaround in

Forte Defence Package

- Share buyback of £800 million at prices between 33p and 40p.
- Increasing final dividend by 21 per cent, making 8.5p for the year.
- Commitment to raise dividend by 20 per cent each year for next three years.
- Distribution of Savoy interest, worth 23p per share, to Forte shareholders.
- Disposals, including £1 billion sale of roadside restaurants, to Whitbread.
- Shelling restaurants to create £24 million in annual cost savings.

its Savoy stake to shareholders because it could not find a buyer willing to pay a premium for its investment. Although it owns 68 per cent of the equity, it lacks voting control. Forte expects to distribute 2.3 Savoy "A" shares for every 100 Forte shares owned, giving a value of about 23p for every Forte share.

Sir Rocco Forte, chairman and chief executive, said that Forte, short of its restaurants, would be a pure hotels company, poised for strong growth. "I'm very excited about this plan. This is really a prospectus for the future rather than a defence document."

Charles Allen, Granada's chief operating officer, dismissed the defence document as "headline-grabbing initiatives". He noted that Forte, after the completion of the asset sales and the share buyback, would, at best, achieve three times interest cover, against four times at a combined Granada-Forte. He said selling the restaurants was a mistake: "What you end up with is a luxury hotels group that would be highly susceptible to cyclical swings."

Forte has opted to distribute

Pennington, page 25



Sir Peter Bonfield, the new chief executive of British Telecom, signing in on his first day at the company yesterday

C&M takeover surprise

By ROBERT MILLER

BUILDING society mania struck in an unexpected quarter yesterday, when the £700 million Stroud & Swindon Building Society confirmed that it was to take over City & Metropolitan. The move will trigger generous bonuses worth up to £2,000 for thousands of C&M members.

The payouts are the first to be made under new regulations which allow societies to distribute up to 5 per cent of their assets. This enables them to match some of the bonuses paid in recent bank takeovers, while retaining their mutual status.

The £100 million City & Metropolitan has two branches

in the London borough of Bromley, another in north London and two in the West Country. Up to 15,000 C&M members, who had £100 in their accounts on both November 30, 1995 and April 18, 1996, will receive a £50 bonus and 5 per cent of the lower balance on those dates. The bonuses are subject to a £2,000 maximum on savings of £50,000.

The society's borrowers will receive a 1 per cent discount on their mortgage rate.

Richard Payne, chief executive of Stroud & Swindon, which will retain its ranking as the 25th largest society, said there would be no job losses, although the former sub-

City Diary, page 27

House prices remain lower than a year ago

By ROBERT MILLER

HOUSE prices are still much lower than they were a year ago in spite of five consecutive monthly increases, according to Britain's largest mortgage lender.

Mr Payne said he could not rule out other mergers, but added: "Stroud & Swindon would want to be the larger party to any such move."

Among the larger societies considering their future business plans are the Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester — which also owns Girobank — Bristol & West and the Britannia.

Prices paid by first-time buyers regarded as key to any sustainable recovery in housing market fortunes, fell by 0.4 per cent in the final month of 1995. This leaves the annual inflation rate in this sector of the market 1.7 per cent lower than a year ago.

The Halifax said: "As consumer confidence improves in 1996, in line with growth in incomes, we expect house prices to strengthen slightly, growing by around 2 per cent. Recent falls in mortgage rates will also aid the market in the coming year and the number of house moves is likely to grow more quickly, increasing by around 10 per cent."

Bank lending, page 24

Warren comes out fighting against DTI

By JON ASHWORTH

FRANK WARREN, the boxing promoter, is vigorously resisting attempts by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to ban him from serving as a company director. Mr Warren, 43, who yesterday acknowledged the four-year-old proceedings by the DTI, said that he was being taken to court on a "technically" and would strongly contest proceedings when the case resumes next month.

Civil proceedings were brought against Mr Warren by the DTI in 1992, soon after the collapse of the London Arena, the Docklands sporting and entertainment complex. Price Waterhouse was appointed administrative receiver of Arena Develop-

ments (Europe) in May 1991, and the venue closed later that year. It reopened under new ownership in 1994. The case against Mr Warren moved to the courts in November 1995, but proceedings were adjourned after previously undiscovered documents came to light. According to Mr Warren, the DTI claimed to have inadvertently destroyed 165 boxes of documents, including accounts, relating to London Arenas (Limited). However, the documents were subsequently found at Price Waterhouse, and proceedings were adjourned to allow time to consider the contents. Mr Warren and his defence team have spent weeks sifting through the papers.

Mr Warren said: "I was taken to court on a lot of technicalities, when I

was not in a position to defend myself. The DTI said it had lost all the accounts, then 165 boxes of documents were discovered. We are now going through the contents."

Park Nelson Thompson Quarrell, Mr Warren's solicitor, yesterday issued a statement on his behalf, saying that the proceedings by the DTI related to affairs of various companies before 1991. It said: "Mr Warren has defended the proceedings vigorously and filed lengthy affidavits explaining his efforts to protect the interest of all creditors, employees and shareholders. He will continue to defend the proceedings vigorously."

Mr Warren personally lost more than £3 million when the London Arena venture collapsed. He had also

personally guaranteed many debts of the companies, and faced the prospect of being made personally bankrupt for more than £5 million. The statement added: "This is not the case of an irresponsible director jeopardising the funds of creditors and not suffering a loss himself, but of a director with a very substantial personal financial commitment who worked extremely hard to protect the interests of all creditors and that investment."

Mr Warren's current business interests are not affected by the DTI move. He promotes the boxers Frank Bruno, Nigel Benn and Naseem Hamed.

Mr Warren face bans of between two and 15 years under the Company Directors Disqualification Act, if court proceedings prove successful.

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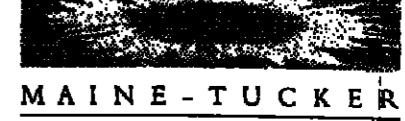
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□ Defence package tests Granada's grit □ Gas in the doghouse again □ Bank studies the Leeson effect

Forte's moonlight flit

□ SIR ROCCO wants to win this one, for reasons that are not entirely commercial and no matter how much of his shareholders' money it costs. It may have been designed to take the market unawares, but Forte's final throw in the game has a hint of desperation.

That said, it will probably suffice. Readers of the Sunday papers, that twilight world where the true business of contested takeover deals is increasingly conducted, learned two things over the holiday weekend. They learned to expect £500 million in goodies for Forte shareholders, and they understood that Granada was hesitating over a 10 per cent jump in the price it was prepared to pay.

The first turns out, surprise, to be a wild underestimate. The second — well, time will tell if it is the same double-bluff. A 10 per cent rise would put an increased offer somewhere in the 360p a share area — some 20p below best City estimates, but analysts are greedy creatures and best kept on short ratios.

The problem for Gerry Robinson at Granada is that 360p is not enough to win, but he cannot afford much more because Forte does not offer the sort of obvious

savings available from Pearson, the bid he should have made.

The only way he might, and not stretch the patience of his shareholders, is by realising the £670 million Granada's holding in BSkyB is currently worth: a refusal to do so suggests Mr Robinson thinks that a better long-term investment than Forte, which is a telling revelation.

The Forte defence gives an idea just what kind of beast would be left after the disposals and the shares buy-back. There is talk of selling the freeholds of some luxury hotels and operating them as management contracts. This could push gearing down well below the 35 per cent the group regards as a minimum; along with the expected recovery in the hotels sector, it would also raise interest cover way above a rather uncomfortable 4 times' profits based on next year's forecasts.

The betting must be that

Granada will not go sufficiently

higher to win: Forte would be left

with the only pure luxury hotels play

on the London stock market and would always command some bid premium as a result.

It would leave Sir Rocco, second generation Forte, in charge of a sadly shrunken business, which is no bad thing, because the rest of the defence package is mere window-dressing: dividend rises that would have taken place anyway and a trio of internal board appointments. Perhaps Sir Rocco will at length put a cap on this Granada-inspired shake-up, and bring in that chief executive to share the top role at Forte.

Gas guzzlers

□ IT HAS not been a good Christmas for utilities. Hydro Electric in Scotland was caught out by the blizzards, and thousands of homes are now without water, after the thaw. British Gas, for a split second, was in danger of losing its hard-won reputation as Britain's most

hated privatised business. Only for a second, though. The great minds at the Rivermill House head office were not going to deprive the company of its proper place at the top of the public hate-list.

Readers of these pages will not be shocked by the news that British Gas as a matter of course evades its responsibilities under its disgracefully overpriced ServiceCare contracts, because they read it here first. But one or two non-readers have had their holiday comprehensively ruined because they foolishly relied on those contracts.

These allow that if your heat-

ing fails, it will be fixed by a dedicated team of engineers on the same day — except when the weather is cold, there is an 'R' in the month, or any number of other excuses occur that may take the company's fancy.

The weasel words in the contract allow British Gas to refuse to carry out the work on time, if it is inconvenient or too many other consumers require the same service. The company is wittering about compensation payments, but this is in reality the insurers' dream, an insurance contract on which payment is merely optional.

British Gas says the lack of engineers this year has nothing to do with the 25,000 people it has sacked over the past decade. Pathetic. British Gas says that cold weather in November and December is not normal, so releasing it from obligations for which its customers have already paid. Beyond pathetic.

British Gas says the only real worth of the contracts, which bind the company to provide

immediate, note immediate, service, is that without such contracts they may not do the work at all, ever. Beyond words. Welcome back where you belong, at the top of the list.

Gamble now, get paid later

□ TEN months after the collapse of Barings, Nick Leeson is settling down to his sentence. Back home, Margaret Bray of the London School of Economics is going round other City institutions, trying to discover how the way their traders are paid affects their attitudes to risk-taking. Her client is the Bank of England.

The banking regulator wants to round out its knowledge of how far traders depend on betting their firms' money in the derivatives markets to buy themselves a decent cup of tea — and what effect this is likely to have on the way markets behave. About time too.

Most of us could probably

hazard a rough guess: the bonus is all. That assessment might also include the obvious doubt whether, in this case, the hidden hand of free markets manages to translate personal self-interest into anything remotely useful to the economy.

The Bank insists that it has no intention of laying down how people should be paid. Certainly not. There are subtler ways. Any regulator worth its salt will ensure that banks that expect traders to earn most of their income from profit-related bonuses have such a high capital requirement imposed on them to allow for the risk that they will rapidly change their ways.

Left-hand drive

□ JUST consider: the head of Rover is arrested and charged with phone-tapping — but the news takes two months to leak out. It would be inconceivable in Britain; it happened in France, if you substitute Rover with Renault and the former politician now running the French car-maker. France has some of the most restrictive privacy laws in the free world; there, the scandals that are the staple of the financial pages in Britain would simply have been suppressed.

Booker sells division to Unigate

BY SARAH BAGNALL

BOOKER, the UK's largest cash-and-carry operator, continues to refocus on its core activities by pulling out of the bacon business with the sale of its Lovell division to Unigate for £20.25 million.

The news came as Booker announced "satisfactory" sales over the Christmas period and a 13 per cent rise in group sales for the year to December 31. Like-for-like sales advanced 6.5 per cent.

Charles Bowen, Booker chief executive, said: "This sale marks our exit from the bacon and pork businesses at a satisfactory price. With our increasing focus on food distribution, fish processing and agribusiness, it is more appropriate that they join Unigate."

Mr Pindar said: "We've now got a very broadly based business that is not just based on local government."

The shares rose 8p to 293p.

Tempus, page 26

Test contract keeps Capita in fast lane

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

CAPITA GROUP, the fast-growing company specialising in providing management services to the public sector and utilities, has won a lucrative contract to run the written theory test for learner drivers from July 1. The written driving tests will bring the UK into line with other EU countries.

Capita has won the contract through DriveSafe, a new joint venture company owned by Capita and JHP Group, a private training company based in Coventry.

The DriveSafe contract is expected to generate revenues of up to £70 million and will last up to five years. The contract will be overseen by the Driving Standards Agency (DSA), the organisation responsible for all car, motorcycle, bus and lorry practical driving tests. The DSA will also be responsible for development and updating of theory test question banks and for related publications.

DriveSafe will develop a

national network of test centres in all main areas of population and will run frequent test sessions to suit candidates' needs. Paul Pindar, Capita's managing director, said there will be 132 centres around the country.

DriveSafe is expected to supervise between 1 and 1.2 million learner drivers each year as they sit the new compulsory test, which for cars and motorcycles will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions based on the Highway Code and road safety. The company will book tests, collect fees, print test papers, provide premises for tests, invigilate the tests and mark the papers. The fee for the written test is expected to be between £13 and £15.

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Tempus, page 26

Sainsbury's promotion rekindles price war fear

BY SARAH BAGNALL

J SAINSBURY has rekindled fears of a price war among food retailers by launching a promotion, which, it claims, saves customers £20 on a typical weekly shopping basket of £70. The move follows last Friday's announcement by Iceland, the frozen food retailer, that it was cutting prices of numerous lines by up to 50 per cent.

The January Savers promotion by Sainsbury involves a combination of price cuts and "buy-one-get-one-free" offers on a range of more than 200 products such as bread, potatoes, coffee, shampoo and chickens. The promotion covers own-label products and brand names.

Sainsbury, chaired by David Sainsbury, saw shares fall 2p to 391p as some analysts expressed concerns that the move could provoke retaliation from rival retailers. Tony MacNeary, an analyst at



David Sainsbury, chairman, saw shares fall yesterday

A Tesco spokesman said: "This is a hyped-up price promotion which is completely hollow. We offer customers a price promotion every month, not just in January. If you are going to do a special price promotion, then why not make it special?"

Sainsbury claimed it ran similar price promotions every January, but this year the offer covered a wider range of everyday items and the price cuts were more substantial. Kevin McCarter, Sainsbury marketing director, said: "We are not trying to reopen a price war. This is a sales promotion."

The promotion is backed up by heavy in-store promotion and newspaper advertising. As a result, the advertising cost is equal to that incurred in the first quarter of 1995, which is estimated by analysts to be about £3.6 million.

Tempus, page 26

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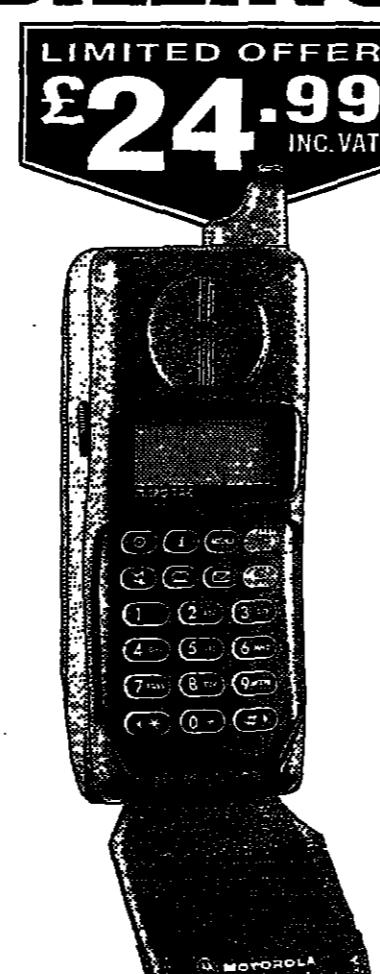
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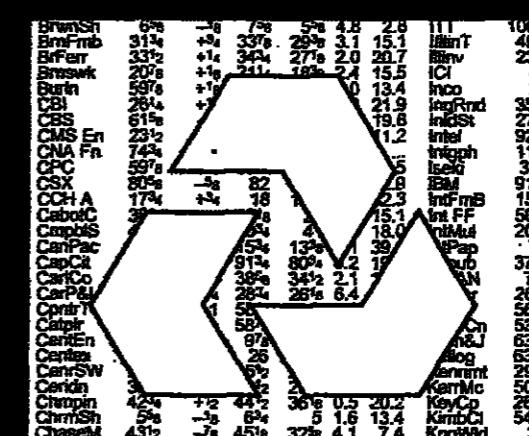
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STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Political uncertainties unsettle share prices

AN OPENING rise on Wall Street brought some relief to the London stock market where investors were again unsettled by political uncertainties.

News of the latest Conservative Party defection has raised the possibility of an early general election, in spite of reassurances to the contrary by John Major. As a result, the firm start to trading that many brokers had forecast at the close of business on the last day of 1995 failed to materialise.

The FTSE 100 index saw an early seven-point lead wiped out and by mid-morning was nursing a fall of 22 points. As one leading broker pointed out: "The market can deal with volatility, but what it cannot tolerate is uncertainty. All this talk of an early general election is likely to hang like a cloud over things for some time to come."

In the event, the index put in a late burst to finish the session just 1.4 down at 3,687.9. But trading remained thin and this was reflected in the turnover numbers with fewer than 500 million shares changing hands.

Early attention focused on Forte, up 12p at 343p, after publication of its final defence document. This proved to be harder hitting than many brokers had expected, containing, among other things, a £35 billion valuation of its hotel chain. That compares with the bid from Granada valuing the whole company at £3.2 billion.

Granada has until next Tuesday to respond. City speculators are convinced that Granada will now have to increase its terms to win the day.

The group maintains that it can raise profits at Forte by £100 million simply by shedding most of the 300 jobs at its head office. It also envisaged benefits from increased food and drink buying power. Granada finished 3p easier at 642p.

Ladbroke, the betting and leisure group which owns the Inter-Continental chain of hotels outside the US, jumped 10p to 156p, reflecting the Forte valuation. Ladbroke shares were unsettled last week by reports that Bass was ready to bid, instead, for rival Vaux. This countered months of speculation that Ladbroke was the real target. In fact, most followers of the sector remain convinced that Lad-



Telecom groups enjoyed mixed fortunes over Christmas

broke is a bid target. Bass finished all square at 719p, while Vaux fell 12p to 707p.

The first day's trading in the new year also focused the bid spotlight on the insurance brokers. This is a sector which is expected to undergo a rapid change in 1996 that could result in a number of takeovers and mergers.

Incheape, up 1p to 250p, in

Whitbread's £1.05 billion agreement to buy Forte's roadside operations, including Travelodge, has attracted the support of Goldman Sachs. The US securities house says that the acquisition should have a meaningful impact on long-term growth prospects. The shares rose 12p to 692p.

recently indicated that it had considered selling its Bain Hogg insurance arm but would now be floating the business off separately.

On, the US life insurer, had originally been tipped as a buyer for Hogg Bain and has increased speculation by selling two of its life insurance operations for \$1.2 billion. Dealers said this would enable it to make a move for one

in the wake of last week's strong gains, ending 2p easier at 352p. The group reported a 10 per cent increase to 47 million in domestic and overseas calls on Christmas Day.

It had been hoped that similar good news would be reported by Vodafone, the mobile phone operator, but none was forthcoming. In fact, the shares retreated 42p to 226p after reporting a lower

in the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt ended £932 lower at £1101.6 in thin trading that saw 42,000 contracts completed.

In the cash market, benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 dropped £212 to £1021.6, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished £16 down at £1041.72.

□ NEW YORK: Wall Street volumes were at normal levels as the Dow Jones industrial average put on 32.15 points to stand at 5,149.27 at midday.

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THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Brook bursts the bubble

SOCIÉTÉ Générale Equities International's Christmas prize of a crate of champagne for correctly predicting the year-end level of France's CAC 40 index has been won by Clare Brook, of NPI.

She is responsible for the ethically faultless Global Care Unit Trust — a fund that is expressly prohibited from investing in companies engaged in the manufacture, supply and retailing of alcohol.

So what is Brook doing about the prize handed to her by SGEI's Roger Horne? Why, she's keeping it, though promises to dispense some of the booty among her colleagues.

About turn

IT MUST rank as one of the shortest retirements. Richard Payne, former chief executive of the £700 million Stroud & Swindon retired on December 31 after 28 years with the building society. Within 48 hours it was announced that he is to make a comeback as vice-chairman of the newly enlarged Stroud & Swindon after its formal takeover of the £100 million City & Metropolitan society. "I am only 53 so I look forward to being a young and active chairman all over again," says Payne.



Safe and sound

CAUTIOUS Hans Werdelin, chief executive of Sophus Berendsen, the little-known Danish group that owns 52 per cent of Rentokil, has answered a perennial question with a new year teaser. Yes, the Danes would happily consider cutting their stake and ceding control, but only if they could be guaranteed that Rentokil would maintain the 20 per cent a year profit growth it aims for. Humble shareholders in ICI or British Gas would doubtless be delighted to give up their votes if boards would only give such guarantees. Even Rentokil is finding that life is getting harder.

Beam me up

A NEW YEAR. A new idea. And new frontiers. Barclays Stockbrokers is today launching a service whereby clients can be linked "live" to brokers in Glasgow with whom they are transacting business. The theme for the launch is based on characters from *Star Trek* ... presumably so somebody can say when calling Glasgow, "beam me up, Scotty".

Missing agent

KNIGHT FRANK, the estate agent, is offering champagne to anybody who can help to solve its problem. After 100 years of using the three founders' names, the firm is dropping "8 Rutley". "We know William Rutley died aged 55 of a heart attack the day after a jewel sale in March, 1909, but that's about all. No known photograph of him exists, and we'd welcome any information," Bill Yates, a senior partner, says. The switchboards in 20 countries will doubtless welcome the change — especially in Singapore. There, the firm's full name was Knight Frank Cheong Hock Chye & Baillieu.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Could the Internet contain a message for Microsoft?

Richard Thomson

asks if a computer empire can survive the accelerating pace of change

It began as a whisper among rival software makers to which few outside the computer industry paid much heed. But as the months have passed it has been discussed more openly, with more confidence and in areas such as Wall Street, where it is starting to matter. The question at issue is simple, but massive: its implications for the future of the computer industry: is Microsoft at last going soft?

It would have occurred to no one to ask this even 18 months ago. Microsoft's dominance of the software market is a central fact around which the personal computer industry organises itself. Its Windows operating programs are the basis for almost all programs and personal computer functions invented by innumerable smaller software companies around the globe. The reason is simple: about 90 per cent of the world's PCs run on Windows or MS-DOS, the original Microsoft software.

Microsoft's empire has lasted more than ten years — not long by most normal standards, but an aeon in the fast-moving computer world, where time often seems to be telescoped and spectacular innovations become old-hat within months. The problem for any computer company is not only to keep up with the breakneck pace of change, but also to try to predict and understand what is coming next so as to prepare for it.

This is what Bill Gates, the multi-billionaire chairman of Microsoft did so well at the beginning of the personal computer revolution. His big break was in getting IBM to adopt his software for its new personal computers in the early 1980s, when the market was first taking off. Once IBM machines became the industry standard, all the other hardware manufacturers needed Gates's program. Before long, he had overtaken IBM itself, the former computer colossus that had failed to anticipate the brave new world of PCs and paid the price by becoming just another hardware manufacturer.

IBM's sudden fall — it took only about three years — was a warning of how fast things change in the computer industry. If it could happen to IBM, say many observers, why not to Microsoft?

From having once been the *enfant terrible* of the industry, Microsoft is now the establishment. And from once being the quintessential computer geek, Mr Gates is soon to become a father — an event that has raised hope among his competitors that he may be losing interest in business in favour of normal family life.

As if to confirm his arrival as head of the computer establishment, Mr Gates has collected about him a think-tank of some of the biggest names in the industry, such as Butler Lampson, designer of the first personal computer, and C. Gordon Bell, who helped to develop the most successful minicomputer. Impressive as the list may seem, critics point out that these men did their seminal work in the 1970s and early 1980s. By the fast-moving standards of the computer industry, they look like dinosaurs who may have little to contribute to future developments. Wor-



Bill Gates has shown that Microsoft can still respond quickly when required

ries about the company became more open with the publication of Gates's book *The Road Ahead*, a glowingly optimistic vision of the computerised future. To many who work in computers, it seemed a rather superficial hymn to the wonders of electronic toys.

And the key development is the Internet. This, in the long run, is likely to prove far more damaging to Microsoft than renewed government investigations into whether the company operates a software monopoly. New user-friendly software has made the net, the massive international computer network, more accessible to the public. This has opened up a new direction of development for the computer industry. It has also badly wrong-footed Microsoft.

For the past two years or so, Bill Gates has been steering his company's efforts towards CD-Rom technology.

No one could blame him for that: most of the rest of the industry was doing the same. But the vision that had taken him into PC software in the early 1980s did not work for him this time. Neither he nor his high-powered think-tank saw the Internet development coming. With the growth of the net, CD-Rom is already looking primitive.

As a result, Microsoft has now lost the chance to create the kind of fundamental operating software for the Internet that it created for PCs. That has already been done by Sun Microsystems that created Java, a computer language already being adopted for Internet use by a significant slice of the industry, including IBM and Netscape, the leading provider of software for accessing the net's worldwide web. It has already outstripped Microsoft's own software for the web. "Java is there to overthrow what we have

done," Mr Gates said recently, like a Roman emperor declaring war on the barbarians at his gate. At the same time, smaller and more nimble companies, such as Netscape, are running rings around it in writing the programs that help people to find their way around the web.

Even more disturbing for Microsoft are the predictions of many computer experts that the way the net is being organised will eventually make redundant the familiar PC operating programs, such as Windows. According to this view, most PCs will operate via the net, effortlessly interfacing with whatever programs are required. If this development ever comes about, Microsoft's core business would evaporate overnight.

Not surprisingly, the company's competitors are crowing. One observed that while, in evolutionary terms, Microsoft was still at the jellyfish stage, many Internet companies had already developed into vertebrates.

Nevertheless, jellyfish or not, Microsoft is still the most powerful force in the industry and one of the largest companies in the world. Bill Gates may look like a computer geek, but he is also a cunning and ruthless businessman who has the will, as well as billions of dollars in resources, to recover his position — which is what he is trying to do now.

The first step was a sweeping change of strategy last month when Microsoft abandoned its attempt to dominate the net by trying to access it to its Windows '95 program. This was a staggering move that perhaps smacked slightly of panic, but it also showed that, in spite of its size, Microsoft will still be fast on its feet when necessary.

Bowing to the inevitable, Mr Gates opened Microsoft Network (MSN), its online service, to other net software. This involved, among other things, licensing the Java software that Mr Gates had not long before declared to be public enemy number one. It is the first time he has licensed anyone else's software. The change in strategy has made MSN like any other online service, with none of the special advantages that Microsoft usually garners from its market dominance.

In this new world, it is still not clear how anyone will make money from the net. Having given up the attempt to dominate net software, Microsoft is moving to provide content. The aim is probably to provide high-quality material that customers will pay to see. Whether even this will work in the anarchic world of the Internet remains to be seen.

In his heart of hearts, Mr Gates may hope that the Internet will ultimately fail to live up to expectations and that consumers will decide they prefer using CD-Rom. This would, of course, ensure that Microsoft's hegemony over PC operating systems continues, at least for the foreseeable future. It would mean computer development remains in a world that Mr Gates himself helped to create rather than escaping into an unpredictable realm that he failed to see coming.

But in the meantime, hard-headed investors are clearly hedging their bets. While the rest of the high technology sector raced into the stratosphere on New York's stock markets last year, Microsoft shares slumped by more than 20 per cent, from a high of more than \$100 to about \$87. This is hardly a vote of confidence. Has Mr Gates lost his touch? Has his company gone soft? The jury is still out.



ANTHONY HARRIS

Real growth begins at the Equator

The statement in this headline is a geographical truism, but not really so far from the truth. In 1996, it is generally agreed, the G7 countries will see a slowdown from the 2.9 per cent real growth achieved in 1995 — hardly an impressive performance for what was billed as a recovery from three years in which growth averaged less than 1.3 per cent. Even the 2.4 per cent now expected would bring the five-year average up to a mere 1.8 per cent, the weakest "recovery" on record; and is due almost entirely to the buoyant spending expected from US consumers, and some real recovery at last in Japan. "Slow world growth" looks a fair summary of the Nineties so far.

But G7, or even the OECD is not "the world". The neighbouring countries known as "the South", previously regarded as client economies of the developed world, demonstrated real dynamic growth in the Nineties. The ten leading Asian economies achieved a four-year average of just over 8 per cent. Even the debt-laden Latin American group managed 3.5 per cent. Their growth generated imports, leading to largely unforeseen recovery in world trade volumes, the main stimulant for what little growth the developed world enjoyed. Which is the client group now?

The coming year could deliver a nasty reminder. All forecasts agree that there will be a slowdown in these countries in 1996 — gentle in Asia, but sharp in Latin America. The smaller but also important economies of South Africa and Australia, which have problems of their own, can hardly resist this trend. In the heart of hearts, Mr Gates may hope that the Internet will ultimately fail to live up to expectations and that consumers will decide they prefer using CD-Rom. This would, of course, ensure that Microsoft's hegemony over PC operating systems continues, at least for the foreseeable future. It would mean computer development remains in a world that Mr Gates himself helped to create rather than escaping into an unpredictable realm that he failed to see coming.

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A conventional answer would be that there was no export-led growth. If we look at the G5 countries, we can see that although exports have been much the fastest growing component of demand over the past five years, imports have grown still faster, so that "net exports" actually depressed demand. But this

The surviving monetarists shrug off such real-world doubts: world monetary growth is rising, and that means recovery. Well, perhaps; but why, and when?

The main cause of monetary growth at the moment is not buoyant borrowing, but huge Japanese official intervention in the currency markets.

There is no precedent for distortion on this scale, and, therefore, no reliable basis for a forecast; and even if yen devaluation does act as a world stimulus (which does not sound all that likely), monetary growth affects the real economy only after a long and variable time lag.

Recent monetary growth cannot dependably affect the outlook for 1996. The risks in the consensus remain on the downside — unless we have again underestimated the dynamism of the part-forgotten third of the economic world we call the South.

Jon Ashworth on the retailing revolution that could kill off piped music

There's a new sound in store for shoppers



Chris Parkinson, left, of Hammond Suddards, and Dean Miles, sales and marketing director for RBS, are in tune with shoppers

less growth by RBS has inevitably angered the in-store music industry, which has enjoyed a monopoly on tape sales worth some £40 million a year.

Stores are also locked in to long leases on sound equipment, making the total annual value of the market as much as £100 million. RBS has even received threatening phone calls and been harassed by competitors hoping to buy it out. Envitably, RBS has sunk vast sums into its London studios without incurring an overdraft. Expansion has been financed step by step, purchasing CDs and equipment using sponsorship fees paid by the stores. Eager to step up the pace, RBS is sounding out brokers on the merits of a private placing or a move to the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

Texas and BHS provide programmers with information on special offers. RBS installs the satellite dishes and sound systems and provides a tailor-made radio service. The signal is conveyed by digital line to the BT tower, which beams it into space via a satellite transmission station in Woolwich, south-east London. The signal is bounced back to waiting dishes in a footprint that reaches across Europe.

There is no telling where it could lead. RBS is about to broadcast to university campuses, relaying tailor-made programmes from a studio in Wakefield. There is talk of targeting hairdressing salons and shops — Hairdresser FM or DIY FM. Hospitals and Post Office counters may follow. RBS will act as the intermediary, relaying signals and providing shows if required.

Soon, shopping in Britain could be a highly pleasurable experience. Think about that the next time you're stuck in a six-strong queue with the tony bloating: "Mr Jones to checkout one."

We might run an interview with the chairman, talking about the financial results, or feature staff competitions. The idea was, why not have their own customised radio station tailored to the times of day," says Chris Parkinson, who advises RBS as head of media finance at Hammond Suddards, the law firm. "First thing, it's: get the staff motivated, wake them up. Then it's softer. Coming up to lunchtime, they'll switch to something more modern and boppy."

Miles says RBS is set to revolutionise retail trading. "It's never been done in this sort of format before. This is a radio station. It's all about trying to get new listeners. If customers stop coming in to the stores, we've got a problem." Relent-

COLIN CAMPBELL

مكانت الأصل

Early losses clawed back

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1995 High Low Company	Price 91	92	93	94	95 PE
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BANKS

1995 High Low Company	Price 91	92	93	94	95 PE
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1995 High Low Company	Price 91	92	93	94	95

INTERFACE

Peter James picks his way through the digital dirt track to unearth the treasures awaiting us in 1996

After a year of dead-ends, we're resurfacing the superhighway

Britain discovered the Internet in 1995 and the party started. In 1995 we woke up to the morning after — the greatest virtual hangover in history. The first half of the year kicked off with a bash the net, trash the net vengeance. The superhighway became the superhighway and hyperspace dissolved into hyperbole. The dream looked rocky. Only the techno-brigade was happy.

For too long their sacred territory had looked in danger of being hijacked from under their keyboards. The world was saying what they had known all along: the information superhighway was a myth.

It was no more than a digital dirt track, the happy hunting ground of the geek, the soapbox of the sad cybernerd, the jungle drums of the anarchic subculture, and the secret lair of the cognoscenti of academe, its treasures more cunningly concealed than a pharaoh's tomb.

Then along came Bill Gates. Mr Microsoft said the net was OK. So OK, in fact, that he wanted to own it, and if he couldn't own it then he would at least launch its biggest rival — and maybe gobble it up that way. Suddenly the net had the ultimate establishment endorsement and the gold rush was on again.

In 1994 there were 17 Internet providers in the UK. Now there are more than 100 and new players are entering the frame every week.

During 1996 we will see changes that will turn the net

from an elitist gizmo into the business tool no company can afford to ignore. It will become devastatingly efficient, awesomely powerful and by far the cheapest and most effective communications system in history.

Ease of use, reliability and speed will be the key developments in 1996. So far the trinity of hardware, software and net infrastructure has not been a happy one. In the early days the Internet backbone was solid but the hardware was flaky, and the software navigable only by Unix-literate rocket scientists. Two years ago there was a change. The

Internet became brilliant but the software became flaky. People used to driving modern cars that never break down found themselves saddled with the software equivalent of a 1948 Ford Popular. Now both the software and the hardware are state-of-the-art but the net infrastructure has been left behind. Surfing the net right now on today's computers and software is like trying to drive a Ferrari across a ploughed field.

E-mail is fine, reliable and very fast, but the web is a banana republic. There is a world-wide drought of bandwidth. As far as the World Wide Web goes, the information superhighway is technology's equivalent of the M25 with ten times the traffic load

What we will see coming in

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So far, with the exception of the odd gimmick, the net has been about words, images and more recently, sounds. Now it is about to get physical. Al-

ready a prototype glove exists enabling two people, anywhere in the world, to share physical sensations. Soon, while at work in your office, you will be able to cook the dinner at home, record a TV programme, let in the gasman and keep an eye on him on your screen, and even feed the cat.

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This could be the final stage before our own brains become chip-activated: before we start to see friends wandering around at parties with little

tags clipped to their ears saying intel inside!

Then we will know we have achieved the ultimate interface and the roles will have been reversed. It will no longer be our machines that will be the true servants of the Cyberage, but ourselves. But that of course won't happen just yet. At least, not this year...

Peter James (scary@pavilion.co.uk) is an international best-selling author. His last techno-thriller, *Host*, was published both in print and by Penguin as the world's first electric novel. His new novel, *Alchemist*, about genetic engineering, will be published by Victor Gollancz on January 18.

Keeping tabs on who wears designer labels

From beans to babies, everything is barcoded. Chris Ward reports

BARCODES were invented more than 100 years ago by an American cattle shipper who wanted to identify his rail wagons, and now grace everything from baked beans and baby's aircraft spare parts.

These Universal Product Codes, as they are more properly known, are allocated by the Universal Codes Council based in Dayton, Ohio. But

you even obtain your own personal barcode on the Internet from <http://www.milk.com/barcode>.

The problem with barcodes is that they need lasers and coherent light sources to read them fully. Even with today's technology, they can be rendered useless by something as simple as a coating of frost or dust on the reader's window.

As a result, the search has been continuing for a means of identifying objects which is as cheap as a barcode but impervious to harm. Now id Systems Ltd of Knutsford, Cheshire, thinks it has found the answer with its FutureTag system.

The size and shape of a postage stamp, a FutureTag is a printed low-profile copper-enriched antenna which can be scanned by a reader up to three metres away. The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tag is read using low-power radio waves working in the 125 kHz range which can pass through most substances except metal, allowing the FutureTag to be embedded in solid objects.

"They are as cheap to produce as barcodes," says Deborah Latham, market development manager. "You'll even be able to put them on beans, so a scanner could read an entire trayload of groceries in one go."

The advantage of FutureTags over barcodes, she says, is that information can also be given to them. "If you had, say, a container load of

car wings you could tell one it was to go to be painted green, another red and so on."

FutureTags can store up to 8k of information ranging from a simple number to complex routing information. And because, unlike barcodes, they don't need to be within sight of the reader they could be used to identify underground pipes or equipment in hazardous environments.

RFID technology is also behind a pet-tagging scheme backed by the RSPCA. Animals — including the royal corgis Oxo and Bisto — have an 11mm microchip injected into the loose skin on the back of their necks. The chip holds a 10-digit identification number which can be read by RFID scanners in hundreds of RSPCA and animal rescue centres.

That information is stored in the PetLog national computer database, so the owner of any lost animal can be quickly traced.

About 200,000 dogs, several thousand cats and a few hundred horses currently have implanted chips, which cost £25. The RSPCA is pressing for the scheme to be made compulsory, as it is in France.

Similar technology is behind the Home Office Offender Tagging trials, whereby criminals are put under curfew. If they stay more than a set distance from a RFID receiver a warning signal is sent to police. The technology is not perfect, though, and it is expected that the original six-month trial due to end next month will be extended.

RFID tags are also on trial in several maternity hospitals to avert the threat of new-born babies being stolen, and in retirement homes worried about residents straying. The complete system costs £10,000.

"FutureTag will be available next year," says Latham. "We're thinking up new applications for it every day."



'Surfing the net on the software of today is rather like driving a Ferrari across a ploughed field'

hardware became brilliant but the software became flaky. People used to driving modern cars that never break down found themselves saddled with the software equivalent of a 1948 Ford Popular. Now both the software and the hardware are state-of-the-art but the net infrastructure has been left behind. Surfing the net right now on today's computers and software is like trying to drive a Ferrari across a ploughed field.

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Boat show is on the crest of a virtual wave

THE Internet will surface at the London International Boat Show which opens at Earls Court on Friday — and surprise visitors who thought the marine world had escaped technology.

An "Internet Deck" has been created with 24 Zenith computers which visitors will use to surf the net and yachting enthusiasts will be able to "race" the computers on a specified course.

The "cyberspace" is one of the biggest at a non-computer exhibition in Britain — far larger than those provided by the major political parties at their annual conferences last au-

umn — and results directly from BT's sponsorship of this year's round-the-world yacht race, the BT Global Challenge.

"We are sponsoring the race to increase the global awareness of the BT brand and also using it as a technology base to explain what we are doing with other products and services," says Kim Fitzsimmons, special events manager for the race.

Visitors to the net deck will be able to monitor a prototype of the new racing reporting system developed by BT.

"We have been co-sponsors of successive round-the-world races and each time we have developed the race-

trailing technology to make it more watchable," says Bob Semaine, BT's project director.

Visitors will also be able to join in regular links via the Internet and Inmarsat satellite with Sam Brewster, the yachtsman currently sailing round the world.

"With the latest developments in satellite and online communications, the action and personalities involved in this year's race will be an integral part of this year's boat show," says Denzil Lee of the organisers, the British Marine Industries Federation.

TONY DAWE

Chris Partridge reports on a digital expedition to Antarctica

In a winter wonderland

SCHOOL children around the world have been on an expedition to Antarctica via the Internet.

The *Terraquest* expedition aboard the polar cruise vessel *Livonia* visited Graham Land, the peninsula that sticks up from Antarctica towards the tip of South America, just before Christmas. Aboard the ship was a battery of satellite communications equipment operating on the maritime Inmarsat system, which enabled expedition members to post bulletins and digitised pictures on the *Terraquest* website.

Some team members even conducted live sessions, answering questions on the ecology of the region.

The expedition was led by American adventure writer Richard Bangs, author of *Riding the Dragon's Back*, an award-winning chronicle of the first descent down the Yangtze, and polar explorer Jonathan Chester.

They built up quite an archive of material on the Antarctic and its ecology, much of which is now available on the web site. Several pages are devoted to the ecological balance of the region, revolving around a small shrimp-like creature called krill, the staple food for whales and other cetaceans and as a major engine of photosynthesis.

The strength of the site is

that the descriptions have a liveliness and immediacy that gives a real sense of place. Photographs and even short video accompany the text.

Perhaps the most vivid description is written by Richard Bangs: "Landing at Bailey's Head on Deception Island was like storming Coney Island on a sizzling Sunday in August. There were countless penguins milling about, some resting, some bathing, some waddling up the rocky hill."

"Our first stop was at a black sand beach famous for the size of its penguin colony."

"There just is no way to describe these numbers, and the eye plays tricks as it sweeps the horizon: in the middle distance what looks like an overcooked meatloaf generously sprinkled with salt and pepper is really

a lava shelf dotted with tens of thousands of penguins."

Future *Terraquest* trips include Virtual Galapagos in May, a trek to Everest Base Camp and a climb to the summit of Kilimanjaro, all of which will be covered on the web.

One member of the team, photographer and writer Victor Goodpasture, will probably not be there, however. He was so overwhelmed by the beauty of Antarctica that he set up camp and stayed on to do further research. He's keeping in touch with



Penguins waddle across the expedition's site

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The tabloid Internet face section will be back on January 10

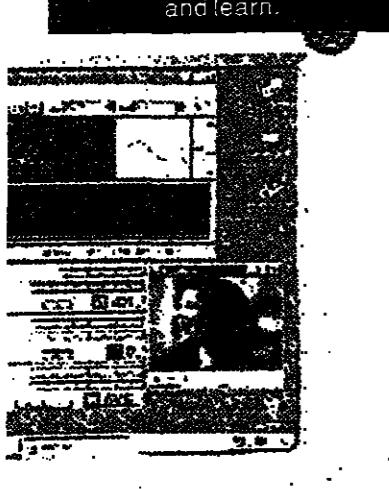
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Keeping tabs on who wears designer labels

beans to babies, everyone...
Chris Ward reports



PREVIEW

A superb Cézanne retrospective comes to the Tate, the unmissable event for art-lovers



PREVIEW

The Who's *Tommy* arrives in London in March, fresh from its triumph on the New York stage



PREVIEW

Thomas Hardy's famous novel, *Far From the Madding Crowd*, inspires a new ballet in Birmingham



PREVIEW

At Covent Garden, a new Royal Opera production for Michael Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage*

From the deaf, dumb and blind kid to Cézanne to the lives of topless lovelies: *Times* critics mark your card for the season

The highlights of the spring collection

Whe says the theatrical traffic across the Atlantic is one-way? Whether your search is for musicals or straight plays, the coming months in the West End will have a decidedly American look.

True, *Tommy* (Shaftesbury, Mar 5) is by Pete Townshend, who is not exactly a Brooklyn kid. But his opera — which comes complete with *Pinball Wizard*, *Acid Queen* and a Romford supermarket stalker called Paul Keating as the rock jock of the title — recently ended a 30-month run on Broadway. And after that we get Stephen Sondheim's latest musical, a dark rite of obsessive love called *Passion* (Queen's, March 26).

Then there's Neil Simon's *Chapter Two* (Apollo, Jan 31),



Pete Townshend's *Tommy* hits the West End in March

with Tom Conti as a remarried divorcee. Zoe Wanamaker brings *Sylvia* by America's chief chronicler of WASP culture, A.R. Gurney, to Shaftesbury Avenue three months later. In between comes Harold Pinter's revival of Reginald Rose's jilted-room thriller *Twelve Angry Men* (Comedy, April 22). Will the democratic theme seem dated in the post-O.J. era?

New British drama is skimpy in prospect. However, David Hare's excellent *Sky-light*, with Michael Gambon in emotional duet, moves from the National to Wyndham's on February 20; Pam Gems latest bioplay, *Stan-*

Aley, brings Antony Sher as the painter Spencer to the Coates on February 1; and a month later Nigel Williams will be competing with Nigel Williams for good reviews. The author of *The Wimbledon Poisoner* opens two plays within a week. Sheila Hancock comes to the Royal Court on March 27 with *Harry and Me*, about the collapse of a chat show; but we must wait to see who will perform the critic F.R. Leavis and his daunting wife, Queenie, in *The Last Romantics* at Greenwich on April 1. Ian Holm and Sara Kestelman were superb in the play's premiere on television, so we will be expecting a lot.

At the National, the big spring offering (Lyndhurst, Mar 21) is Schiller's *Mary Stuart*, with Anna Massey as Elizabeth I. The RSC stages Simon Callow's version of the film *Les Enfants du Paradis* at the Barbican on January 30, and imports one of the triumphs of last year's Edinburgh Festival, *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, from the Abbey, Dublin, on March 6. When posterity reassesses the drama written during the Troubles, Frank McGuinness's fierce, forthright play is sure to get a high mark.

Elsewhere in London, watch especially for *Valley Song*, Athol Fugard's latest look at his native South Africa (Royal Court, Feb) and 1953's Craig Raine's updating of Racine's *Andromaque* (Almeida, Feb 14). Out of town, the early season plums promise to be Arnold Wesker's new *Blood Libel* at the New Norwich Playhouse (Feb 1); the ever-enterprising *Theatre de Complicité* in another South African piece, *Foe* (West Yorkshire, Leeds, Mar 7); Peter Whelan's play about the future of the monarchy *Divine Right* (Birmingham Rep, March 8); and, at Nottingham Playhouse, on February 26, David Ives' much-praised *All in the Timing*, six short plays from — guess where? Yes, New York.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Everybody is in an epic cycle mode this spring. The London Symphony Orchestra offers music's equivalent of the little and large show: a Bruckner/Mozart series conducted mostly by Sir Colin Davis, but also involving Solti, Gatti and Mackerras, as well as the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the National Youth Orchestra and a superbo array of soloists led by Uchida, Midori, Muti, Bashmet and Perahia (Barbican, from Jan 16).

Another great soloist, the Latvian violinist Gidon Kremer, plays a series with the Philharmonia (Festival Hall, from Mar 2). Meanwhile, Sir Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra continue their Towards the Millennium exploration of 20th-century music. This year the 1950s are under scrutiny, which suggests a grim diet of serialism. But Rattle and his planners have clearly worked hard to extract a little melodic joy from that earnest era, so although the opening concert (Mar 2, Symphony Hall, Birmingham) includes Stockhausen's orchestral tour de force *Gruppen*, there is plenty of Shostakovich, Bernstein, Martinu, Stravinsky and Messiaen around as well.

Glasgow files the Stars and Stripes (Feb 7 to 17), with the Festival of American Arts and Music directed by the American conductor Andrew Litton. It includes European premieres played by Scotland's two top orchestras, the RSNO and the SCO, plus a visit from New York's Circle in the Square Theatre Company, with Tennessee Williams's *Suddenly Last Summer*. More American music is programmed at the Barbican where Charles Ives — insurance broker and protean musical eccentric — is the subject of a BBC festival (Jan 19-21).

In the chamber field, too, ensembles are preparing big series — most notably of Beethoven, whose string quartets will be presented in two rival cycles. At the Wigmore Hall the Lindsay Quartet are already em-

BBC festival for American composer Charles Ives

respectively; observers of the Machiavellian London orchestral scene will doubtless read significant things into that.

Finally, from the strange but true department: Jack Gibbons plays only the second performance in history of Alkan's stupendous, 275-page 12 Etudes for piano (Feb 15, Queen Elizabeth Hall); Frank Zappa's *Yellow Shark*, the only orchestral work inspired by a surfboard, receives its British premiere at the Festival Hall (Feb 18); and the Russian conductor Hyo-Min Shin makes his debut in the West (RPO, Barbican, Feb 17) at the tender age of 22.

RICHARD MORRISON

Bound for the Tate: Cézanne's *Les Grandes Baigneuses* (1894-1905); the other version of the painting, executed in 1906, will also be part of the show

Advance booking has already opened for the Tate Gallery's Cézanne exhibition, the major highlight of the new year's exhibitions (Feb 8-April 28; tickets from First Call on 0171-420 0000). The show, a superb retrospective and the first for many years, may well look even more impressive at Millbank than it did last year at the Grand Palais in Paris. Quite simply, an unmissable event.

By a bizarre coincidence, the Royal Academy launches its grand survey of Lord Leighton's art the following week (Feb 16-April 21). This high priest of Victorian classicism could hardly be more removed from Cézanne, and yet both men produced much of their work in the same, late 19th-century period. Leighton, who served as the RA's president from 1878 until his death in

1896, will be represented by most of his major paintings and sculpture.

If Leighton's exhibition marks the centenary of his death, the Hayward Gallery's Spellbound (Feb 22-May 5) opens 100 years to the day after the Lumière brothers first showed film in London. To celebrate the subsequent intense relationship between art and film, the Hayward has invited ten artists and film-makers to produce new work for the exhibition. Paula Rego, Eduardo Paolozzi and Douglas Gordon will share the space with, among others, Peter Greenaway and Terry Gilliam.

Art interacts with dance at the Barbican Art Gallery, where Diaghilev's *Creator of the Ballets Russes* includes many works never before shown in the West (Jan 25-April 14). Diaghilev began his astonishing career in St. Petersburg, where he worked with young artists. But he soon gravitated to the theatre, and his brilliant Ballets Russes became internationally renowned.

A rare treat for Old Master devotees

is promised at the National Gallery,

where a choice array of paintings from the renowned Doris Pamphilj Gallery in Rome will be displayed (Feb 22-May 19). The *pièce de résistance* is Velázquez's mesmeric portrait of Pope Innocent X, but outstanding works by

Caravaggio, Raphael, Titian, Lotto

and Bernini will add to the show's delights.

In contemporary art, memorable one-person shows are likely from Bill Woodrow (Tate Gallery, Jan 22-April 23), Susan Hiller (Tate Liverpool, Jan 20-March 17), Sergio Camargo (MOMA Oxford, Jan 14-April 14), Jeff Wall (Whitechapel Art Gallery, March-April) and Jean-Michel Basquiat (Serpentine Gallery, March 6-April 21).

The British Art Show is at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art and other Edinburgh venues (Feb 24-April 28), and in March the ambitious Visual Arts UK is launched throughout the north of England, celebrating 1996 as the Year of Art.

RICHARD CORK

What's your fancy? Las Vegas showgirls, or the languid enigmas of Theo Angelopoulos; a company of "I" words from Martin Scorsese, or Jane Austen heroines fluttering their eyelashes at Regency manhood? Keana Reeves, perhaps? Or the only penguins in the world with waists? The list of new movie attractions appears endless.

Paul Verhoeven's *Show Girls* (mid January) brazenly ogles the female body, and piles gitzty spectacle onto a story as fragile as a falling leaf. But as a Hollywood folly, it should be seen. So, for far better reasons, should the season's two other Las Vegas dramas. That *déjà vu* feeling may creep up during Scorsese's *Casino* (Feb 23); for three hours Robert De Niro's gangster rises and falls, while Sharon Stone tides on the sidelines and Joe Pesci shoots off his mouth. But there is much to delight the eye as the camera roams through the temples to greed.

Mike Figgis, in *Leaving Las*

Vegas (mid January), takes an intimate approach to his tale of two lost souls: a Hollywood scribe drinking himself to death (Nicolas Cage), and a call girl (Elisabeth Shue). Critics' awards have gathered around this film in America, which certainly shows a leap forward for Figgis after his impersonal remake of *The Browning Version*.

Heat (Jan 26) is another American film to look out for.

As in *Casino*, the length — three hours — is not justified, but writer-director Michael Mann tells his tale of LA

criminals and their tale of their

fall with such dazzling virtuosity

that the odd lull is easily

forgiven. And who could close

their eyes when hunter and

hunted are played by Robert

De Niro and Al Pacino?

Another big gun, Oliver



Nicolas Cage and Elisabeth Shue as the two lost souls trying to find themselves in the fine *Leaving Las Vegas*

Stone, fires off his salvo in *Nimis* (Mar 15), featuring Anthony Hopkins as Tricky Dicky. That, too, lasts three hours.

Running times do not get any shorter in art-house cinemas. To watch Harvey Keitel

wandering through the Balkans in Angelopoulos's *Ulysse's Gaze* (Feb 16), you must

allow 177 minutes. There are

so few practising cinema poets

that Angelopoulos should be

treasured, though he does try

your patience. As does Emir

Kusturica in *Underground*

(167 minutes, originally longer),

a wartime tragicomedy

set in Yugoslavia that begins

brilliantly but gives the viewer

a frightful pummelling (opens on Mar 8).

Quieter, more civilised plea-

sures are on hand. Despite a

most curious performance by

Hugh Grant, *Sense and Sensibility* (Feb 23) glides along thanks to Emma Thompson's script and Ang Lee's direction; the photography and colour design, too, are beautiful. More social comedy comes from Eric Rohmer in *Rendezvous in Paris*, due on February 9.

Penguins with waists appear in the animated tale *The Pebble and the Penguin* (Feb 16). But the best family entertainment by far is left for late in March when Disney's *Toy Story* arrives. John Lasseter's computer-generated animation is dazzling, and the tale of toys who spring to life allows for a rich mix of humour and thrills that should appeal to all ages. The length is good too: 81 minutes.

RODNEY MILNES

GEOFF BROWN

The Royal Opera should rouse us all from post-Christmas torpor with a new production of Tippett's *The Midsummer Marriage* by the Mastersingers team of Bernard Haitink and Graham Vick; Cheryl Barker, the US tenor Stephen O'Meara and John Tomlinson sing the leads on January 16. And there are two unmissable revivals: John Copley's lavish production of *Semiramide*, another great British opera conducted by Sir Charles Mackerras, with American soprano Ruth Ann Swenson in the title role, and Philip Langridge as *Jupiter* (February 19); and *Arabella*, with Amanda Roocroft as Strauss's heroine partnered by Bryn Terfel and conducted by Mark Elder (March 27).

Elder also conducts ENO's latest foray into Wagner: a new *Tristan and Isolde* directed by David Alden (fasten your seatbelts), with Elizabeth Connell and George Gray in the title roles (February 10). And Graham Vick moves to the Coliseum for a new *Fidelio* on April 24, with Kathryn Harries and Anthony Rolfe Johnson, now conducted by Richard Hickox.

The Welsh National Opera celebrates its fifth birthday this spring — a fine time to be deprived of its new opera house. But its ambitious programme of three new productions survives. A *Cav and Pag* is conducted by the music director Carlo Rizzi, staged by Elijah Moshinsky and Michael Yeargan, and has Anne-Marie Owens and Dennis O'Neill on stage (March 5). This is preceded by a new *Rake's Progress* conducted by Mark Wigglesworth and produced by Matthew Warchus, with a matching young cast of Paul Nilan, Alwyn Mellor and Bryn Terfel (February 17), and followed by a new *Faust* conducted by Mackerras, produced by the other Alden twin

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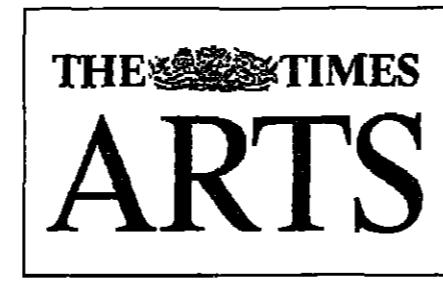
CHOICE 1

The Lindsay opens a season of Beethoven string quartets
VENUE: Tonight at the Wigmore Hall



CHOICE 2

Last week in the West End for Stoppard's *Indian Ink*
VENUE: All week at the Aldwych Theatre



CHOICE 3

Northern Ballet Theatre brings *A Christmas Carol* to Edinburgh
VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Theatre



YOUNG ART

Smithills School in Bolton reverberates to the sounds of five bands, three choirs, and a sitar and tabla ensemble

LONDON

BIESENHEIM IN FOURHS Britain's own Lindsay Quartet opens London's month of Beethoven on string quartets. Their audience will find them superb and sustained interpreters of these masterpieces. The quartet's programme includes a minor Quartet Op 122. The remarkable American ensemble the Emerson String Quartet embark on a tour of the UK, starting at the Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171 935 2141). Tonight, Mon Jan 5, 8.10pm and 13.7.30pm.

MIR WORLDLY WISE Last chance to see Twyla Tharp's three-set creation for the Royal Ballet. The first set is a modern, the second a classical, the third a more responsive, but a musical style Tharp has given us a production the likes of which are rarely seen on a British stage. The cast includes the Royal Ballet, the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171 304 4000). Tonight and tomorrow, Mon-Fri 7.30pm.

INDIAN INK Last week of performances of the new Cocteau and Paul Bhattacharjee in Tom Stoppard's latest, with poignantly upturning aspects of Anglo-Indian remembrance and respect. Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171 400 0022). Tonight, Sat 6.7.30pm.

BLOODY KNOT Athol Fugard's celebrated 1981 play, directed by Jonathan Lloyd, the difficult dreams of two South African brothers, one light-skinned, the other dark. Strange Fish Production, Gate, Pembroke Road, W1 (0171 229 5387). Schedule has changed, so see box.

BREAK OF DAY Timbuktu. Winton Mathew looks at a return to his old, today, the most interesting theatre. His *Stutter*-style production had met poor reviews, but also some enthusiastic

ROYAL CALLISTO Stoppard's *Clouds* and *Indian Ink* are the latest, but a thoroughly upturning aspects of Anglo-Indian remembrance and respect. Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (0171 400 0022). Tonight, Sat 6.7.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CAROL Review of Ian Judge's popular but over-sweet production. Cine Francais plays, Sloane, Sloane Street, SW1 (0171 638 8811). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, most matins sold out. Until Jan 13.

DEAD FUNNY Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comedy and some of their fans. Savoy, The Savoy, WC2 (0171 871 6326). Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 7.30pm.

THE DUCHESSE OF Malfi Anaisa Hiles plays the beleaguered heroine in Chekhov's *Jew's* new production in London for a month during its world tour. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road.

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CURRENT

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENT (15) What happens when the widowed President gets a girlfriend? Not much.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM *Romance* Scott's once again offers a sure antidote to post-New Year blues. *Indian Ink* and *The Brass Band* are a career-best 1940s revivalists' outfit who are at their very best on the bandstand. They managed to make a great deal of fun out of older blues to make a great appearance on their latest album, *Blues & Rhythm Review*, Volume One. **REEDS** Scott's, Broad Street, W1 (0171 643 4521). Tonight-Sun.

SOUTHAMPTON True love, jealousy, and a bit of a mystery adventure, all rolled into one for *The Count of Monte Cristo*. Ian Hill's *Admiral Dumas* classic.

BRISTOL The Hippodrome's *Star Wars* stars Anthony Newley on Starbase transcribed from the *Alexander in*

WORLDS (0171 671 7771). Tonight-Sat 7.30pm, matins Thurs, 2pm and Sat, 3.30pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

HOUSE Full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

WC2 (0171 369 1746) Mon-Sat 7.30pm, matins Thurs and Sat 2.30pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. *Clouds* (0171 400 0022). **Odyssey** (01426 591 971). **WC2** (0171 934 5085). **Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8.15pm; matins Weds 2.30pm, Sat, 8pm.**

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THE JUNGLE BOOK Tim Sargant's superb, ultra-entertaining adaptation of that *Mowgli* stories. A remaking re-telling from Disney's cuteness.

CALLING HOME (12) Stephen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodeson as the all-knowing Inspector and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pillars of society. *Clouds* (0171 400 0022). **Odyssey** (01426 591 971). **WC2** (0171 934 5085). **Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8.15pm; matins Weds 2.30pm, Sat, 8pm.**

THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE A wet evening of song, dance and sketches to do with William S. Shakespeare. **Worl** (0171 400 0022). **WC2** (0171 369 1746). **Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm.**

TALES FROM HOME The Bash Teller's return along with the Jewish tales they tell so well, their new repertoire includes stories from Ireland, Africa and the Caribbean. **Tricycle** (0992 671 7729) (0171 229 1000). **Mon-Sat 8pm matins 2pm and 4pm.**

WILD OATS Anton Lesser and James Bowman star in a highly employable *Clouds* (0171 400 0022). **Odyssey** (01426 591 971). **WC2** (0171 934 2233). **Todays** 2.15 and 3pm.

LONG RUNNERS

BLOOD BROTHERS Phoenix (0171 867 1000). **Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm.**

DEAD AND BURIED Ian McEwan's *Star Wars* (0171 400 0022). **Odyssey** (01426 591 971). **WC2** (0171 934 5085). **Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm.**

MACK AND MABEL Jerry Herman's musical set in early Hollywood. *Clouds* (0171 400 0022). **Odyssey** (01426 591 971). **WC2** (0171 934 5085). **Mon-Fri 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm.**

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■ DESIGN

Portsmouth and Gosport are planning the most spectacular piece of urban revival in Britain



■ THEATRE

In New York, RSC veteran and *Star Trek* hero Patrick Stewart wows his fans as Prospero in *The Tempest*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ VISUAL ART

In Berlin, German and Russian curators join forces for a major new exhibition



■ TOMORROW

Homicide cops Brad Pitt and Morgan Freeman on the path of a serial killer in *Seven*

The Navy and all its Pompey

Lottery-rich Portsmouth need not spend £500m on attracting more visitors, says Marcus Binney

In the great race to celebrate the millennium, two urban neighbours in the South have taken a spectacular lead. Paul Spooner, the head of marketing for Portsmouth-Gosport region, is jubilant. "We have £40 million from the National Lottery and £9 million from the Government Challenge Fund," he says. "And we have just been named Port of the Year. We are talking of a £500 million programme."

This could be the most striking piece of urban revival in Britain, matching the rejuvenated American waterfronts of Boston and Baltimore. There is even a £100 million plan put forward by Hampshire County Council to link Portsmouth and Gosport by a light railway under the harbour.

Guowharf, next to the harbour railway station, is billed as a new home for the Royal Yacht *Brittannia*, converted into a conference centre and moored alongside a San Francisco-style fisherman's wharf with shops, cafés, restaurants and a new waterside hotel.

But is too high a proportion of lottery funds being used to create new attractions when money should be invested in giving a secure future to the historic ships and more of the naval dockyard buildings?

Portsmouth's aim is to draw more people to the city. But where will they stay? According to Michelin, the hotel situation in Pompey is dire compared with that at other top resorts — unless you stay across the water at Fareham. So where is the lottery money going? First, two creating five kilometres of waterfront promenades. It could be Portsmouth's answer to London's Embankment, com-

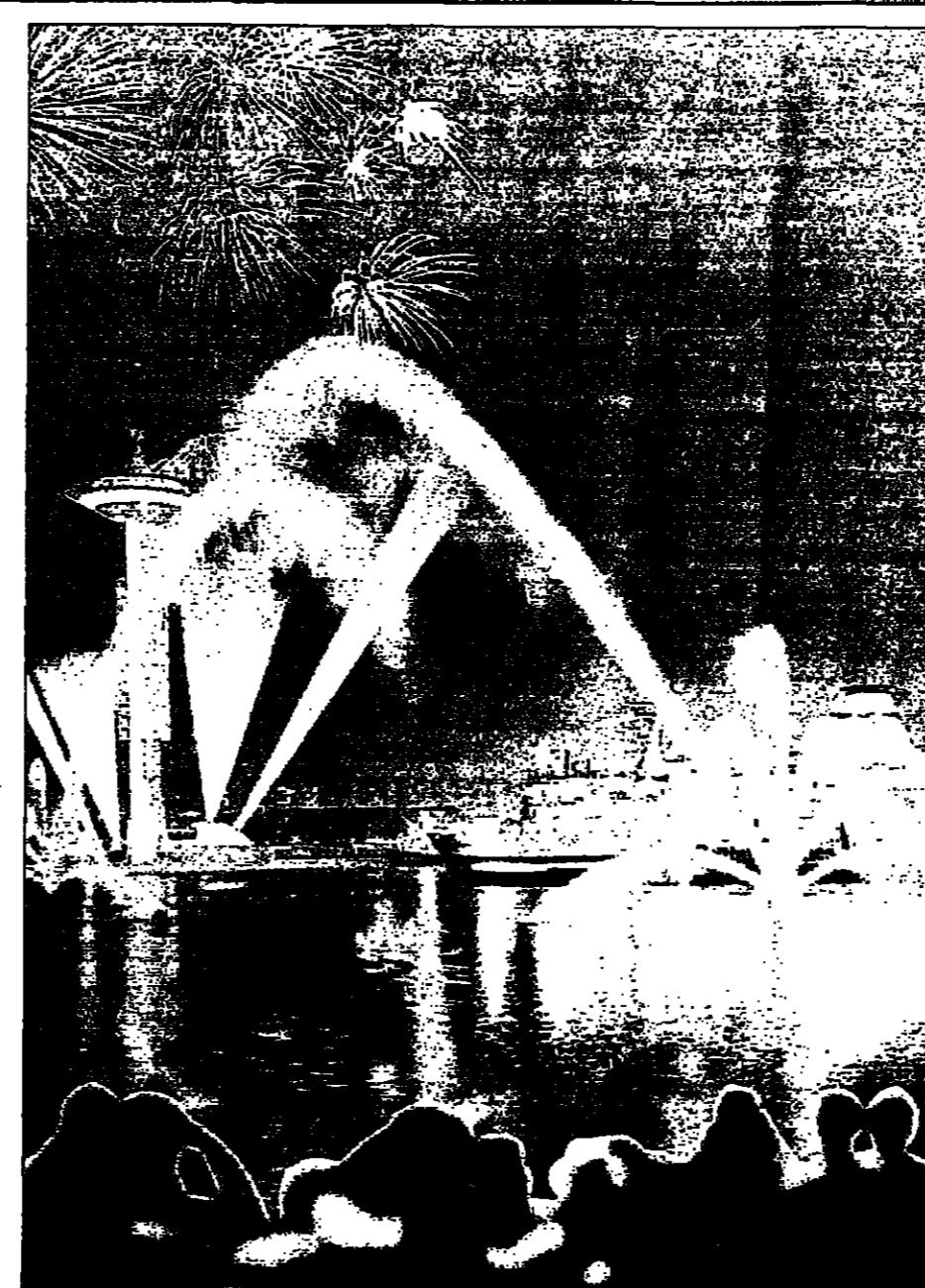
plete with resplendent sculptural lamp stands, granite walls and Yorkstone paving. But Celia Clarke, the chairman of the Portsmouth Society, claims that not enough trouble is being taken to ensure high-quality modern design.

With good reason, Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, urged Portsmouth to hold an international design competition for the proposed 165m-high, £24 million harbour observation tower. Portsmouth should be looking for a modern-day Eiffel. Britain today bristles with inspired engineers who, perhaps using masts and rigging as a motif, could design a world-famous landmark. But Portsmouth is dodging the issue. "We've had interest from Hong Kong and America," Spooner says.

We don't want to end up with a tower that no one wants to build," he says. "It will be a competition between developers."

Portsmouth seduced the millennium commissioners with an artist's impression showing a great water arch spanning the whole harbour. Things have since changed a bit. "It would," says one sceptic, "have required the largest marine pump ever built and would have sunk every ship that came into the harbour."

But the resourceful Spooner has gone to Geneva with his team to study the famous fountain on the lake. They are now planning two 150m Geneva-style vertical jets, which will tilt 45 degrees to meet and form a millennium "M", or a single 300m water arch. Lit by lasers, it will provide the world's first permanent night-time rainbow. Below water, fans will fire smaller plumes, like tugs



A computer's eye view of how Portsmouth Harbour may look on December 31, 1999

blasting their hoses to celebrate the arrival of a liner in port.

With advice from Speirs, the Edinburgh lighting consultancy, Portsmouth and Gosport are on course to providing a spectacular nightly 30-minute water show in which new water-buses will play a key role. Taking their cue from the illuminations at the Seville Expo, the planners also envisage a pair of 8m-high water curtains serving as giant projection screens.

Portsmouth harbour is a big place and the lights will have to be bright and colourful to register. Here, current concerns about light pollution — preserving the darkness of the night-time sky — are having an effect. Jonathan Speirs explains: "All our lighting will be environmentally sensitive, aimed at features, rather than just beamed up into the sky."

The biggest new attraction will be a high-tech, Navy-in-

action centre, telling the story of the modern Navy through large-format film shows. The Navy's top brass is suddenly taking a keen interest as it realises the recruiting potential.

This touches the core of the issue. For a century after Trafalgar, the Royal Navy was not only master of the oceans but the world's best public-relations outfit. Wherever a British ship came into port, whole towns went *en fete*.

Today the real glory of Portsmouth — the working dockyard — goes virtually unseen. *Times* readers may lament the steady decline in the numbers of fighting ships, but on a pre-Christmas tour of the dockyard I saw an awesome series of destroyers, frigates, minesweepers down from Scotland, not to mention *The Invincible* and *Briannia*. The sight of many of these sleek and sinister fighting machines moored alongside

or being overhauled in dry docks is overwhelming. Of course the Navy can't have people wandering the working dockyard at will, but the public could be bused around. It could become one of the most popular features of a day in Portsmouth.

Every visitor to the Royal Dockyard is potentially a lifelong friend of the Navy. The disappointment is that sailors are hardly in evidence in areas that the public visit.

The Changing of the Guard is London's top tourist attraction. Portsmouth should offer the naval version, complete with Royal Marine bands. The Navy itself, more than any number of millennium towers, water arches and promenades, could put Portsmouth on a par with Oxford, Cambridge and Stratford. If Bottomley wants dividends, *Racing Demon* could be the best investment of all.

VISUAL ART: How Berlin saw Moscow and vice versa

Best friends and deadly foes

Deep inside the Berlinische Galerie is a triptych of paintings that tells quite a tale. A portrait of Stalin is flanked on the left by a painting of the underground palaces of his Moscow Metro; and on the right — but at a much wider distance — by Sergei Lutshinskii's 1926 *The balloon has flown away*; two grey verticals of apartment blocks containing a central radiance of sky in which a tiny red balloon is disappearing.

This curiously asymmetric hanging gives a clue to the genesis of *Moscow-Berlin. Berlin-Moscow 1900-1950*, an exhibition which provides both an illuminating context

and stimulating supplement for the Hayward Gallery's *Art and Power*. Jointly curated by Berlin and Moscow's Pushkin Gallery, the exhibition was conceived long before the Wall came down. Even as it was being mounted, Moscow insisted the paintings be hung in this way.

Where the Hayward's exhibition focuses on the fate of individual artists between 1930 and 1945, that at the Berlinische Galerie is held together by the tensions between forces and ideologies.

Art and politics, blood and night, upheaval and catastrophe intrude into every viewpoint, just as they crashed their way into the 20th century.

The exhibition is a cornucopia of German Expressionist art: Moscow, long deprived of a sight of the canvases, was greedy for as much Kirchner, Marc and Kandinsky as it could get its hands on.

After the October Revolution, Berlin was a centre of Russian immigration and a vibrant public platform for both proponents and opponents of the Revolution. Ivan Puni's *Synthetic Musician* of 1922, created in Berlin, became a symbol of the gallery itself.

But the Weimar Republic and the Moscow of the New Economic Policy were only temporary laboratories for Modernism. The exhibition shows the gradual erosion of liberties: the hardening of canvases into the fearful symmetries of Vladimir Vasilev's *The Commanding Family* (1938) and Adolf Wissel's *Kalenberg Peasant Family* (1939), or Gerasimov's *Stalin on the Kremlin Wall*.

HILARY FINCH

● Berlin-Moscow/Moscow/Berlin: at the Berlinische Galerie, Martin-gruppus-Bau, Berlin, 030 6169220 until Sun 11 opens at the Pushkin State Museum of Fine Arts, Moscow (09 70 95 203369) on Mar 1

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vices, as well as unlimited free travel on buses and trains. In the evening there is a visit to a production by Remote Control, the magnificent company led by Michel Laub, whose recent work has been acclaimed at major festivals.

On Sunday we have arranged a tour of the exhibition *Design and Identity* at the Louisiana Museum, one of world's finest repositories of modern art, which will also be housing an exhibition of works by Picasso.

The package costs £500 per person and includes return flights, three nights in a four-star centrally located hotel, three dinners and two lunches, hotel transfers, tours, theatre tickets, a welcoming cocktail and the ser-

ves of a local guide. For further details, call The Theatre Club office on 0171-387 9673 and we will send you an itinerary. Individual events may change for organisational reasons.

WIN A FREE TICKET

● To celebrate the launch of our European programme we are offering free places on the Copenhagen trip to a lucky member and their partner. Send your answers to the questions below to the Theatre Club, Euston House, 81-103 Euston Street, London, NW1 2ET, to reach us by January 19.

1 Which British city was Cultural Capital of Europe in 1990?

2 What is the name of the famous amusement park in the centre of Copenhagen?

● ALL our travel packages are being organised through Arts Cities in Europe GmbH. For further details and a booking form telephone 0049 751 90730, or write to Arts Cities in Europe GmbH, Raitenaustrasse 5, D-78464 Konstanz, Germany (fax 0049 751 90735).

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK for any or all of this week's special offers, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage.

TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 264, Colchester CO2 8JL, or telephone 0120 741737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673.

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Fitzgerald and Others v Williams and Others
O'Regan and Others v Same
Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Orton [Judgment December 20]

Having regard to articles 6 and 220 of the EC Treaty, the English court should not, in the exercise of its discretion, order security for costs under Order 23, rule 10(a) of the Rules of the Supreme Court to be given by an individual plaintiff who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters [OJ 1972 L 299/32].

The Court of Appeal so held, allowing an appeal by the plain tiffs, 81 of whom were Irish citizens resident in the Republic of Ireland, from Sir John Wood, sitting as a Deputy Judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who had ordered security for the costs of the first defendant, Bryn Lloyd Williams, in the sum of £100,000 within 14 days in respect of the action they had brought against him and other defendants claiming damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and the recovery of sums allegedly belonging to them.

The court also allowed the plaintiffs' appeal against further orders of Sir John Wood (i) discharging a Mareva (asset-freezing) injunction on the ground of non-disclosure, (ii) granting the first defendant leave to draw on funds to which the plaintiffs made a proprietary claim, (iii) refusing to secure funds held by the sixth defendant for the fourth defendant, and (iv) as to mode of trial.

Mr Peter Haye and Mr A. Fraser-Urqhart for the plaintiffs; Mr Andrew Macnab as amicus curiae for the first defendant in person.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS, referring to the issue of security for costs, said that the question was whether the plaintiffs who were resident in Ireland had Community law rights which the court had to respect by holding

that it had no jurisdiction to make an order for security against them, or, if it continued to have jurisdiction, by refraining from the exercise of its discretion to make an order.

His Lordship referred to *Porzelack KG v Porzelack (UK) Ltd* [1987] 1 WLR 430; *De Bry v Finspacer* [1990] 1 WLR 552 and *Berkeley Administration Inc v Mclelland* [1990] 2 QB 407.

In that last case Lord Justice Parker and Lord Justice Russell, reversing the judge's decision and ordering security against plaintiff companies ordinarily resident in other Brussels Convention EC member states, had rested their judgments on the conclusion that Order 23, rule 10(a) related to residence, not nationality, and, conversely, on the ground of nationality as to an appeal against article 7 of the EC Treaty.

Lord Justice Staughton had reached the same destination but by a different route, holding that a provision, such as that rule, directed at those not ordinarily resident in the UK was tantamount in its practical effect to a provision directed at nationals of other countries or principally affecting such nationalities.

He had then considered whether such a different treatment was objectively justifiable and concluded that the conferment of a discretion was objectively justifiable. His preferred conclusion was that there was no discrimination under the rule since there was no different treatment which was not objectively justified.

The court was now asked to consider that line of authority in the light of *C-398/92 Mund and Fester v Hatex International Transport* [1994] ECR I-467.

There was a question whether paragraph 91(2) of the German Code of Civil Procedure, in authorising seizure of assets where judgment was to be enforced abroad, even in a country which was party to the Brussels Convention, was contrary to the prohibition of discrimination in article 7, now article 6 of the EC Treaty.

The answer was given by *Mund*.

The European Court of Justice had concluded that paragraph 91(2) fell within the ambit of the Treaty and that it entailed a covert form of discrimination, because while a judgment to be enforced abroad might be against a German national, the great majority of enforcement would be against persons who were not of German nationality or legal persons established in Germany.

The European Court had accepted that a presumption of difficulty in enforcing a judgment in a non-member country was legitimate, but held that such a presumption was not justified where enforcement was to take place in a member state party to the Convention. The court concluded that the provision was not justified by objective circumstances.

In the light of that decision his Lordship considered:

I did the rule fall within the scope of the Treaty provisions?

The answer was in the affirmative. The factual distinction between the present rule and the German provision could not be held to support a difference of principle between them and the EC Treaty rule governed both.

2. Did articles 6 and 220 of the EC Treaty, as now read, directly enforceable in member states following legislative implementation of the Convention?

Again the answer was affirmative. The *Mund* decision clearly proceeded on that basis.

3. Was the rule discriminatory?

The rule plainly contravened the court to make orders against plaintiffs ordinarily resident out of the jurisdiction which it could not make against plaintiffs ordinarily resident within it. Therefore, it involved discrimination in the sense used by the court in *Mund*, in that different plaintiffs were treated differently.

4. Was that discrimination based on the rule discrimination?

On its face the discrimination for which the rule provided was based on ordinary residence, not nationality. But there was a close

analogy with *Mund*. Just as most German judgments to be enforced outside Germany would not be against Germans, so most plaintiffs in England ordinarily resident outside the jurisdiction would not be British.

Just as paragraph 91(2) was held to be covertly discriminatory on ground of nationality, so the same conclusion had to follow in relation to the rule.

5. Was such discrimination on the ground of nationality justified by objective circumstances in relation to those who were nationals of and resident in other member states party to the Convention?

The rule differed from paragraph 91(2) in that (a) it did not expressly discriminate, (b) a judge would be more difficult to enforce abroad, and (c) it did not impose an obligation on the court to make an order where it was satisfied, but conferred a discretion.

However, since a plaintiff suing in England, who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Convention, had a Community right which a national court had to protect not to be the subject of discrimination on the ground of nationality, it was necessary to ask whether any modification of English law or practices was called for to protect that right.

The answer compelled by *Mund*

was that the English court should never exercise its discretion under the rule to order security to be given by an individual plaintiff who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Convention, at any rate of substantial difficulty in enforcing a judgment in that other member state or not.

The evidence was not that enforcement in Ireland was difficult, but rather that it presented no difficulty. It followed that no order for security should have been made against the Irish plaintiff.

Nothing in his Lordship's judgment bore on the case in which security was sought against a foreign insolvent company whether resident in a member state or not.

Nor was it suggested that the traditional practice of the English court required any modification where the plaintiff was ordinarily resident in a country which was not a member of the Community.

Lord Justice Waite agreed and Lord Justice Orton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Marrache & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said at the trial before Judge Medawar

that it had no jurisdiction to make an order for security against them, or, if it continued to have jurisdiction, by refraining from the exercise of its discretion to make an order.

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However, since a plaintiff suing in England, who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Convention, had a Community right which a national court had to protect not to be the subject of discrimination on the ground of nationality, it was necessary to ask whether any modification of English law or practices was called for to protect that right.

The answer compelled by *Mund*

was that the English court should never exercise its discretion under the rule to order security to be given by an individual plaintiff who was a national of and resident in another member state party to the Convention, at any rate of substantial difficulty in enforcing a judgment in that other member state or not.

The evidence was not that enforcement in Ireland was difficult, but rather that it presented no difficulty. It followed that no order for security should have been made against the Irish plaintiff.

Nothing in his Lordship's judgment bore on the case in which security was sought against a foreign insolvent company whether resident in a member state or not.

Nor was it suggested that the traditional practice of the English court required any modification where the plaintiff was ordinarily resident in a country which was not a member of the Community.

Lord Justice Waite agreed and Lord Justice Orton delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Marrache & Co; Treasury Solicitor.

LORD JUSTICE HIRST said at the trial before Judge Medawar

Law Report January 3 1996

Habitual residence dispute

In re M (a Minor) (Habitual residence)
Before Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Balcombe [Judgment December 20]

A dispute over a child's habitual residence under the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (Schedule 1 of the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985) was a dispute about the child's future, not a dispute between the parents. It was to be determined as a matter of fact.

Habitual residence could not be

acquired by a child who was not physically present in the country concerned.

The mere act of taking a child

to a foreign country did not

impose an obligation on the court

to make an order where it was

satisfied, but conferred a discretion.

Where both parents had

parental responsibility and had

agreed where the child should

live, one parent could not by a unilateral decision alter the child's

habitual residence.

The Court of Appeal so held

allowing an appeal by the plain tiffs, 81 of whom were Irish citizens

resident in the Republic of Ireland,

from Sir John Wood, sitting as a Deputy Judge of the Queen's Bench Division, who had ordered security for the costs of the first defendant, Bryn Lloyd Williams, in the sum of £100,000 within 14 days in respect of the action they had brought against him and other defendants claiming damages for fraudulent misrepresentation and the recovery of sums allegedly belonging to them.

The court also allowed the

plaintiffs' appeal against further

orders of Sir John Wood (i)

discharging a Mareva (asset-freezing) injunction on the ground of

non-disclosure, (ii) granting the

first defendant leave to draw

on funds to which the plaintiffs

made a proprietary claim, (iii)

refusing to secure funds held by

the sixth defendant for the fourth

defendant, and (iv) as to mode of trial.

Mr Peter Haye and Mr A.

Fraser-Urqhart for the plaintiffs;

Mr Andrew Macnab as amicus curiae for the first defendant in person.

Alasdair Wilson for the mother; Miss Judith Hughes, QC, and Mr Robert Cole for the Official Solicitor as guardian ad litem.

LORD JUSTICE BALCOMBE said the mother had been born and raised of Indian parents in Britain. The father had been born and raised in India. They had married by arrangement in India in April 1976. Their habitual residence at all times had been in England and Wales. Both parents had parental responsibility. The parents had separated at the end of January 1994.

The parents had agreed that K

should live with his paternal

grandparents in India. In February 1994 K had gone to India. He was still physically present and resident there.

Since she did not have sole

parental responsibility even had

the mother removed K without his

father's consent it could not have

changed his habitual residence. A fortiori a more decision on her part could not change his habitual residence.

His Lordship had difficulty in

following that particular point of

argument. It treated habitual

residence as a legal concept whereas

the House of Lords in *In re J (a*

Minor) (Abduction: Custody rights) [1990] 2 AC 562 had said it

was a question of fact.

Some one must be resident to

acquire habitual residence. The

child's residence in India could not

be a residence in England and Wales without his ever having

left the country. To hold otherwise

would be to abandon the factual

basis and to change the definition of habitual residence in metaphysical

concepts.

LORD JUSTICE MILLETT said

habitual residence was a question of fact, not an artificial legal

construction. It was not possible for a person to acquire residence in a country while remaining

in another country. Neither parent could change the child's habitual residence unilaterally.

Having joint responsibility, the

parents had decided K should be

spent almost half his life there.

In July 1995 the mother had

withdrawn her consent and by an

originating summons had initiated

wardship proceedings, seeking to

involve the jurisdiction of the

House of Lords.

The judge had decided that K

was habitually resident in England and Wales.

The judge had held that the

mother had withdrawn her

consent to K's residence in

India and that the wardship

proceedings should be

dismissed.

The court had held that the

<p

Predicting the media future, but without help from astrologers or any of the charlatans all too beloved of millennial society . . .

THERE is no point risking predictions on anything except dead certainties, such as this being the year when we all learn to spell millenarianism. Other inevitabilities for 1996:

• A rash of news stories about videocassette recorders stolen by thieves posing as men come to return the VCR for Channel 5.

• A "quiet" royal wedding that will attract much publicity and prurient gossip as if it were held in the Abbey.

• The decomposition of ITV into one amorphous mass, as takeovers extinguish the hoary concept of "regions". Granada's Richard and Judy making their *This Morning* sofa from Liverpool to London is just one sign.

• The outgoing Marmaduke Hussey being replaced as chairman of the BIC by someone other than Lord Gower. If the doctor could not sort out Bosnia, what could he do for the sectarian-scarred Beeb?

• Janet Street-Porter appointed

presenter of the Proms, as Radio 3 continues its drive for more accessible accents.

• Topless darts providing the guiding light to lead many reluctant viewers to the cabled glory of the Mirror Group's Live TV channel.

• Non-academics over 30 getting an e-mail address.

• Classic FM learning the hard way that joky commercials are not funny, especially the twelfth time round.

• A cessation of the Northern Ireland Office's sprightly advertising campaign to sell the bright side of Ulster.

• More *Sunday Telegraph* stories warning that amniocentesis is bad for you.

• Serial killers getting statutory rights to literary representation.

• The discovery that the new

Broadcasting Bill allows ITV giants to take over big newspapers as well as small television companies.

• Musical chairs continuing among the big names in national newspapers without any of the big names landing in television. There's still no proof that "bimediaworks" at the top.

• The shortage of newspaper easings but not the rise in newspaper and magazine cover prices.

• University courses in media and women's studies adding Dame Edna and Mrs Merton to the syllabus. Role models or hags?

• BBC press releases boasting how popular its *Pride and Prejudice* series is in the United States when in fact only a few million Public Broadcasting Service eggheads will watch it.



BRENDA MADDOX

• Channel 4 to give real offence and run a "J'accuse" against the Queen Mother for a stony unfeelingness towards her sister-in-law, the Duchess of Windsor, that set in train a royal hardness of heart from which the monarchy may never recover.

• A new hairdresser for HM the Queen.

• The British General Election and the American presidential elections to be held on the same day, thus cutting by half our exposure to over-crowded studio discussions, windblown pieces-to-camera and women's page analyses of the respective spouses' clothes and psyche.

• The Shopping Channel to sell groceries as well as brooches and bracelets.

• ITN's *News at Ten* and its *Channel 4 News* to stop acting as

found to shield children from the Internet because there is no way to stop pornography slipping into the stream.

• *The Reader's Digest* to win its fight to keep its apostrophe in the right place.

• This month's judicial review of the Independent Television Commission's contested award of the Channel 5 licence to end with no cloud over either the ITC's chairman, Sir George Russell or its chief executive, David Glencross, two of the ablest and most unassuming public servants ever to grace broadcasting.

THE new year period is also a time for resolving to continue those habits of which you are proudest. Like avoiding any television sport is comparatively simple, that (as proved by Hugh Grant) there is no such thing as bad publicity and that out of 500 channels people pick a few favourites and stick with those.

• Crown copyright to be abolished over the publication of legislation and parliamentary and judicial proceedings. Why should the Stationery Office have a monopoly on *Hansard* — and charge £4.20 a copy?

• A parental lockout code to be



Coca-Cola projects a friendly image, but what is the reality?

Private face behind the brand veil

How do companies measure up to their public image, asks Alan Mitchell

The Advertising Association expects marketers to spend £2.7 billion this year advertising their brands. Their creations — like the National Lottery figure, the Andrex puppy, the Teletex tea folk, the PG Tips clumps and Coca-Cola's polar bears — will be talked about, laughed about, and become part of everyday culture.

But are these brand personalities, which marketers spend so much time and money developing, little more than illusions? A survey by the marketing consultancy Dragon International seems to expose the true face of the commercial world.

Many companies employ "mystery shoppers" to test their customer services. Dragon did the same, but with consumers' letters. It sent 50 famous brand names a set of six letters on issue ranging from environmental policy to why the product's price varies from shop to shop. Each letter came from a fictitious consumer but a real address.

The result? Many brands' much vaunted "values" emerge as something for public consumption only. The kind Teletex tea folk, for example, didn't get round to answering their letters. Persil, which portrays a caring image, coolly admitted its miseries with a complaints slip and a pre-printed booklet.

Heinz, a supposedly warm, friendly family brand, produced stiff, formal replies. Dito young, informal Tango. For many companies there was no apparent reason as to who responded to which letters. And many answers from high-profile brands such as Ariel, Tango, Kenco and Ribena came from faceless corporations — Procter & Gamble, Britvic Kraft Jacob Suchard and SmithKline Beecham respectively — which consumers may have never heard of.

Others didn't take the time to read the consumer queries. A K. Wilson of Middlesex, for example, got short shrift from Coca-Cola when he asked: "Who owns you?" The response was: "We are always pleased to hear from our consumers and we do hope you will continue to enjoy our products for many years to come." McVitie's and KP Foods decline the opportunity to make a charitable donation, even when one hadn't been asked for.

On the other hand, some brands excelled themselves. Bass asked *is* see a copy of Mrs Varley's daughter's finished homework assignment. Whitbread (in behalf of Stella Artois) took full page to explain the ins and outs of who

owns which licence to brew Stella. Likewise, Nestle (on behalf of Nescafe) gave a full-page explanation of its donations policy, while Whitbread's charities coordinator suggested he continue the conversation over the phone. Anchor Butter's brand manager even tried to phone a fictitious Mr Masters to explain his advertising policy.

But who cares if a company replies to a few letters? The answer, says Keith Wells, the Dragon International consultant who oversaw the project, is that consumers want to know what goes on behind the "brand veil". In the past, brands were like actors. It didn't matter what state they were in backstage as long as their public performances enthralled their audiences.

Today, just like film stars and royalty, we want to know about brands' private lives. If a brand is advertising its freshness and wholesomeness while its factories pollute the countryside, we want to know.

Adam Lury of the advertising agency Howell Henry Caldecott Lury agrees. "Increasingly, consumers want to ask the questions, and not just listen to what brand managers want to tell them."

Mr Wells ranked each brand's response for its speed, tone, quality, accuracy and fullness. The conclusion for many is could try harder.

Tak Skol lager, which tried to fob off the letters. Owner Carlsberg Tetley penned exactly the same letter from the same person on the same day in answer to all the letters. "As you will appreciate," it reads, "we receive many letters of this type and while we are always keen to help, it is important that we do not disclose commercially sensitive information. I would therefore be grateful if you could call me to confirm your exact requirements."

Colgate went one better. The brand, which recently returned to its "ring of confidence" advertising theme, did much to boost poor old K. Wilson of Middlesex. A letter from consumer relations rebuked him with the following: "If we were to respond in detail to each request, the time devoted to the daily running of our business would be very limited."

Thank you for taking the trouble to contact us," it added, politely.

"I said to Martin, well, you might as well ask her."

"My feeling as a viewer was that *Panorama* was rather inward looking, in the sense that it had its own agenda defined by things that were mostly internal to the BBC. I want to broaden the agenda to things that matter to people's lives," Mr Hewlett says. He cites as an example a recent *Panorama* about postnatal depression, which affects 75,000 women a year. "Some people thought that was not an appropriate subject for a *Panorama*. My own view is that we wouldn't hesitate to make a programme about AIDS which, serious as it is, affects many fewer people."

Mr Hewlett's predecessor, Glynwyn Benson, deserves some of the credit for moving *Panorama* towards a more social and domestic agenda. What Mr Hewlett has tried to do in addition has been to introduce a greater element of documentary-style storytelling into *Panorama*.

The programme now frequently focuses on the real-life stories of ordinary people to illustrate wider trends and issues. When it tackled the subject of divorce earlier this year, for instance, it zoomed in on the break-up of one couple's marriage.

The interview with the Prin-

cess of Wales was another example of addressing the political through the personal — although in this case there was clearly another agenda at work, too. Although *Panorama*'s reporter, Martin Bashir, had been preparing a programme on the monarchy for six months, it was not until September that the possibility of an interview with the Princess of Wales surfaced. "We had been looking at some in the press about her and naturally the programme came to focus on her.

Well, you might as well ask her," and no one was more surprised than me when the message came back, "I think I will." At that point this office took on an air of unreality," Mr Hewlett says.

Although not present when the interview was recorded, Mr Hewlett had high expectations. "Martin's great skill was in getting to the point where he had learnt quite a lot but was still able to maintain a professional distance. He discussed with her the areas that he

wanted to talk about, but she did not get questions in advance."

Mr Hewlett, a father of two, takes no pleasure in the break-up of the Wales' marriage, but is enjoying the glory that the programme brought. The benefits for *Panorama* are clear, too. The week after the Diana interview a *Panorama* programme on race relations in the United States got an audience of four million — roughly a million more than would be expected for the subject. Subsequent editions about Yorkshire Water and the National Lottery also did better than expected.

Mr Hewlett believes that his successes at *Panorama* this year have also been based on his willingness to take risks.

The success of the Jayne Bowen programme, which took nine months to make, depended entirely on whether a court order preventing the child from being identified would be lifted.

Part of the confidence for taking such risks comes from experience. Since he entered television in 1981 as a researcher, first on *Panorama* and then on *Nationwide*, he has worked as a producer on a number of news, current affairs and documentary shows

at the BBC and Channel 4. "Taking such risks is very difficult to do outside the context of a fairly sizeable in-house team. I am able to do it because I can get other people to fill in a few slots, while the other investigative work is done by the team of around 40, which is extremely well resourced."

Having raised viewers' expectations so spectacularly, Mr Hewlett now has to provide equally sensational follow-ups. It won't be easy. "We are not going to get more than 22 million viewers again, no matter what we do. Diana was a kind of once-in-a-career happening," he says.

He hopes, however, that the programme will maintain its personal touch and is planning to open the new *Panorama* season next Monday with a programme timed to follow the festive season called *Boozing for Britain*, examining the effects of alcohol on individuals and society. After this come investigations into medical trials for the Aids wonder drug AZT, and into the new breed of antibiotic-resistant "superbugs".

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Schedulers remember November

OUR ratings chart for the year to December 17 shows that eight of the top 20 places went to programmes screened in November.

The most watched programme of the year — *Panorama*'s sensational interview with the Princess of Wales — was a freak occurrence unlikely to be repeated.

The programme peaked at 23.4 million viewers and had an average audience of 22.8 million.

Early in the year, BBC1 trumpeted the return to form of its popular drama output and rolled out several new series, including *Bugs*, an

action adventure series, starring Craig McLachlan (from *Neighbours*), *Hamish Macbeth*, Robert Carlyle and *The Vet*, starring Jennifer Holt. They won audiences of eight to 11 million, but not one made it to the Top 20.

The BBC's single outstanding

popular drama success was *Casualty*, the hospital series now entering its tenth year. It achieved a peak audience of 16.7 million.

ITV was plagued on the spring onwards by complaints by its paymasters, the advertisers, that its ratings were sliding. Though *ITV* is losing audience share to cable and satellite faster than the BBC or Channel 4, it continued its strong showing with popular drama such as *Heartbeat*, *London's Burning*, *A Touch of Frost*, *Soldier Soldier*, *Cracker*, *Band of Gold*, *Peak Practice* and *The Bill*, all of which reached our top 20.

The return of *Inspector Morse* in November as a one-off film, after a three-year break, showed that the Oxford sleuth has lost none of his pulling powers. The programme, starring John Thaw and Kevin Whately, attracted 16.6 million.

Final Christmas week figures were not available when we compiled our table.

ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE TIMES TV TOP 20 OF 1995						
Programme	Date	Time	Chn	Producer	Genre	Audience M+

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A fine office life down on the farm

If you long for a change of scene, or the chance to be your own boss, why not consider utilising your computer and office skills to become a farm secretary?

Demand is growing and so are the numbers employed in this sector. Mobile farm secretaries enjoy independence, a variety of workplaces and the flexibility attractive to those with home responsibilities. The job might also appeal to those seeking a route out of unemployment.

You need a car, an interest in farming and figures, and you must have taken a recognised course in managing farm records and accounts, including European regulations. For this you can study full or part-time or at night school — useful if you want to continue working while preparing to launch yourself.

"It's a super job," says Meg Cowap, who lives near Sleaford and has worked for 20 years as a secretary on farms around Lincolnshire. To gain experience after getting a City & Guilds qualification, she started working two mornings a week through an agency, then built up her own client list, largely through recommendations ("farmers never respond to ads," she says). Now she works full-time. With 15 regulars whom she

Sally Watts finds a growing demand for computer skills in the countryside

visits weekly or monthly, plus some occasional, she has almost more work than she can handle.

Her fax, mobile phone, word processor, copier and computer are Mrs Cowap's tools. The computer has an agricultural accounts package, enabling her to offer a "computer-bureau" service.

As well as building up their own technology, farm secretaries must keep up to date with all the latest rules and regulations, since farmers themselves are often too busy. For example, Mrs Cowap has just attended a seminar on the EU's common agricultural policy.

The amount of work involved at each farm depends on the complexity of the business. A large farm may offer only modest work, while a mixed intensive one will probably need more help because it must keep records of animal pedigrees, movement and breeding. Other farms may have diversified into, for example, stabling and livery, or golf courses (especially in the Home Counties), soft fruit or

tourism. All these will involve more work, including correspondence, and such farms often need a full-time live-in secretary — a useful first job for a youngster, perhaps.

An office secretary with good general skills could adapt well after taking a farm accountancy course, says Mrs Cowap. But it can be an isolated life. "You may not see the farmer at all," she says, "and his wife is increasingly out at work. The secretary may have to let herself into an office which has not been touched since her last visit."

Sally Wood, who set up as a farm secretary as a teenager, has never found the work isolating, though. She comes from a farming background and took an agricultural course after secretarial college, gaining a national diploma in business and finance. Then came nine months working for an accountant before she set up as a farm secretary in Leicestershire and, like Meg Cowap, gained clients through word-of-mouth recommendations.

"Once you have one or two, you are on your way," she says. In her first year she acquired a computer with agricultural programmes, and she also uses a word processor.

Now 25, Sally is beginning again in business. She married a farmer, moved to Chesterfield and is developing a new territory in Derbyshire, where the farms are smaller.

So far she has two clients. To get better-known she has sent leaflets to local farmers and will follow up with visits, meanwhile she returns to Leicestershire twice a week.

She sees the need for farm secretaries increasing with the workload. Some farmers, she says, still keep their records in a cardboard box part of the secretary's



Ken Pyne

role is to put them on computer. "More and more work is coming from the Ministry and we handle it," she adds. "There is a national shortage of farm secretaries, yet it is a very good life and you can work however many hours you like."

Just as the office secretary is often called an administrator, so farm secretaries may be known as farm administrators, according to Tim

Cartwright, a computer bureau manager on the farm consultancy side of a Grantham land agency. "Farm secretary work is a good career because farming is so diverse," he says.

Farm secretaries have their own professional body, the Institute of Agricultural Secretaries and Administrators, which has 800 members, most of whom are self-employed. Mrs Cowap edits its quarterly journal, and monthly bulletins give information on such matters as new wage levels and set-aside deadlines.

"To survive, farms must be efficient," says Mrs Cowap. "Increasingly they need administrative skills and someone who understands EC regulations. So there is room for more of us."

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Formation of new Formula One team drives Britain's former world champion to most difficult test

Stewart's return sets up challenge to old order

Oliver Holt reveals why the man who steered clear of risk decided to form his own team

The motor show hardly ever stops in Detroit, but tomorrow the high rollers are coming to Motown. From his home on the shores of Lake Geneva to this frozen city on the shores of Lake Erie, Jackie Stewart, the most successful Formula One racing driver Britain has had, is arriving to launch a new assault on the upper echelons of the sport.

Since he won the last of his three drivers' world championships in 1973, Stewart has remained aloof from grand prix racing, pouring himself into other interests, fraternising with royalty and running a highly successful shooting school. Amid the legion of tales of sportsmen who cannot cope with their removal from the limelight at the end of glittering careers, he seemed a glorious exception.

He came to occasional races, of course, largely to commentate, and he was chairman of Paul Stewart Racing, a team latterly run by his son, Paul, which was one of the most successful in the junior formulas. It was obvious, though, that his life had moved on and the huge bursts of adrenalin were coming from elsewhere. Yet now, the man who won 27 grands prix in 99 starts, is back.

His involvement and his continuing influence within the sport makes this an effort that could change the face of grand prix racing, every bit as significant as Benetton's entry into the sport in the 1980s. Stewart Grand Prix represents a new challenge to the old order from one of its own. The big four of Williams, Benetton, Ferrari, and McLaren, may soon become the big five.

"This is probably the biggest challenge of my life," Stewart said yesterday. "Paul and I talked for a long time about

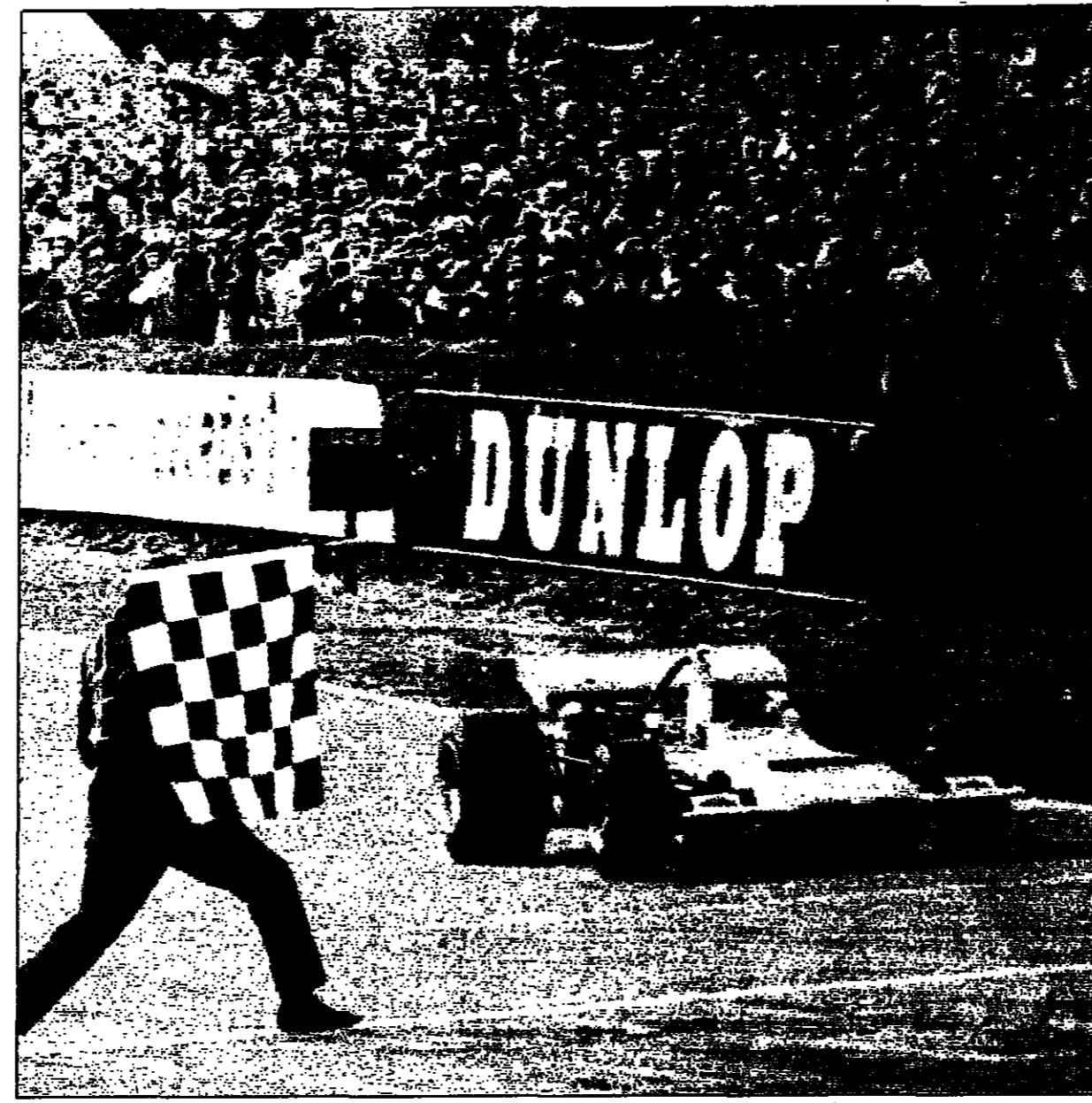
'He could change the whole face of grand prix racing'

Stewart Grand Prix, with him as chairman and Paul, who recently retired from an undistinguished racing career, as managing director, will burst on to the Formula One scene at the beginning of 1997, with an exclusive supply of the top-rank Ford engines.

No drivers have been mentioned yet, but Stewart has strong links with men like David Coulthard and Gil de Ferran, the IndyCar rookie of the year.

This will not be an effort like that produced by Pacific or Simtek, recent Formula One new boys who found they could not stand the heat. Stewart is building on strong foundations and is banking on heavy financial backing to allow him to challenge for the world championship, and their recent drift into the backwaters

The key to his return was



Stewart raises his hand in salute as the chequered flag comes down to signal another victory, a scene followed inevitably by the presentation of the winner's garland, right.



FIELD PARK

whether we wanted to go into Formula One, but now we have taken the plunge. But the story of my life has been to remove the unnecessary hazards of a calculated risk-taker. That is why I am here to talk about this today, because I removed most of the hazards that could be removed when I was a driver.

"It is one thing being Jackie Stewart, the racing driver," he said, "and quite another to be Jackie Stewart, team owner. If I had tried to start my own team too early, it might have been a very expensive mistake. We will not go into Formula One in a half-hearted manner."

He has not returned in supplication, admitting that he can stay away no more, far from it. He is back because at the last time is right.

Stewart is a calculating man, a man who built his racing life around avoiding risks, and the pieces are beginning to fall into place.

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of the sport with the Swiss team, Sauber.

"The involvement of Ford has been immensely important," Stewart said yesterday, before he left for the company's world headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, where the official announcement of his involvement will be made tomorrow. "For them to make the decision to choose us is an enormous privilege."

Stewart's career began at a

time when racing was considered a pure sporting activity.

"No advertising was allowed on cars and he was competing with the icons of the British racing establishment, men such as Graham Hill and Jim Clark. A little like Alain Prost, he quickly gained a reputation for brilliant percentage driving, eschewing the spectacular for steady, attritional performances.

He was instrumental in

changing the attitude of the racing fraternity towards circuit medical standards in particular and retired one race short of his hundredth grand prix when he refused to take part in the last race of the 1973 season as a mark of respect for his team-mate, Francois Cevert, who had been killed during practice for the race, the United States Grand Prix.

He is confident, though, that he can bridge the gap in racing

generations. Stewart Grand Prix will build their own cars at the existing site of Paul Stewart Racing — who ran Formula 3000 drivers such as Coulthard, and Dario Franchitti — in Milton Keynes before they move to a new factory at a greenfield site nearby in 1998. The 50 staff they employ now will eventually expand to more than 150.

He is confident, though, that he can bridge the gap in racing

and be serious contenders for the world championship," Stewart said, "but you have to remember: it took Frank Williams ten years."

Stewart, who will attend all the grands prix and scale down his involvement in other projects to concentrate on Formula One, is planning to finance his operation handsomely with a network of long-term sponsors, which could create a financial windfall.

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Element of Chance puts edge on winning formula

The journey across the Irish Sea to England has been happily made by many great jockeys down the years, but only a few trainers have found triumph in exile. So slight trepidation balanced a natural belief in good fortune when, at the age of 43, Noel Chance accepted an offer to leave his home on the Curragh and move with his wife and two children to Lambourn last summer. He need not have worried.

Nine winners from a string of 12 horses and a healthy strike-rate of nearly 30 per cent over the first seven months is proof enough that the skills which brought him over 100 winners in Ireland have survived the journey. Christmas has not been quite so kind. Midnight Caller, the stable's classiest chaser, hit a joint just when a big prize beckoned and the prospects of two other live hopes fell foul of the weather.

At least Chance has a regular salary to cushion the disappointment now. In Ireland, where the small-timer depends on a mixture of wit, confidence and blind faith, Christmas would have been cancelled through such ill fortune.

After 20 years, Chance had become a master of such tactics, picking up the crumbs from richer tables, enjoying a good life but still having a smile at his bank manager.

Andrew Longmore visits a trainer reaping the benefits of a sweeping career move



The offer from Michael Worcester, a Bristol-based businessman, to train privately in Lambourn came at just the moment he was beginning to wonder whether he had any future in the game which had been his life since school.

"I'd never had more than ten horses in my yard, but I was lucky. I had always managed to dig up a decent horse, sell it, back it, whatever, and that would keep the ship afloat. But the last three years I'd been finding it heavy going. I was living off an overdraft, the banks were looking for their money back all in one go and the racing was becoming more and more competitive. I wasn't so badly off, but there was no opportunity to get better horses."

The influx of well-bred horses from the Aga Khan and the big Arab owners trickled down to the nooks and crannies where the lesser lights do their business. "I would have a horse working really well and I'd look at the form and see he couldn't win his race. Sure enough, he would flash by in fourth, out of the money. It was happening to all the small trainers in Ireland."

It took Chance three minutes to accept a job in England, a few days longer to persuade his wife to follow, and nothing other than the quality of the Guinness has persuaded him to regret the change. Any lingering doubts were removed within the first month when Monty Royale, the first runner from his near-new Folly House Stables, romped away with £12,000 bundle at Market Rasen.

The warmth of his welcome has also come as a pleasant surprise to the soft-spoken Irishman, who had heard tales of Lambourn's tight-knit society. "People warned me it was full of cliques, but I've never had a problem. The facilities are excellent, a trifle better than the Curragh." The only problem has been adjusting to the down after training for so long on the plains.

"I have changed my methods a bit," Chance said. "Here, you can get horses fit without galloping them too hard. No one likes galloping horses because that's when they get problems, but if you keep them going slowly and steadily

up the hills that builds up the muscle and clears out the pipes without the horse really knowing it. You can keep a horse on the boil for six months instead of four, which means you can win an extra couple of races."

Chance wants to build up the stable to its maximum of 25 horses, enough to balance the books, not so many that business obscures passion. Horses, like people, he says, thrive on the personal touch. Guerrilla raids, not the full-scale charge, are his speciality.

Today he sends Nupdown Boy against St Mel's Fairway at Lingfield, but others must wait for a return to action. Chance has high hopes of Mr Mulligan, who has won his three races convincingly this season, but now that a long-standing knee problem has been treated. Midnight Caller is the stable's likeliest ambassador after a creditable third to One Man at Ayr marked his return to form.

"He's a good old horse, jumps well, stays well, got a bit of class. He's ten now. If he was six or seven, you'd be looking to win a Hennessy Gold Cup with him." The Ritz Club Trophy is his aim, which poses a question. If he won, would it be a victory for England or Ireland? Either way, it would be richly deserved and riotously celebrated.



Chance with Midnight Caller, the stable's principal challenger for Cheltenham Festival honours this season

LINFIELD PARK

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12.20 Shadawan 2.20 Tudor Fable
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The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 12.50 KINGDOM OF SHADES.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 12.50 Beaumont.

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Rangers' domination under threat

Celtic can confirm title aspirations in Old Firm match

By KEVIN McCARRA

WHERE Old Firm games are concerned, Celtic have, over many years, inadvertently established themselves as the masters of the trivial victory. They have been adept at wounding Rangers' pride, but never at delivering the mortal blow. A 3-0 win for Celtic last season, when the Bell's Scottish League premier division title had already moved far beyond their reach, was typical.

Tonight's Old Firm game, at Celtic Park, brings another opportunity to determine whether the gap between the clubs in resolution this new year is as great as ever. One has to go back to a Tennents Scottish Cup tie in 1991 to find the last occasion when Celtic, with a 2-0 win, inflicted structural damage on Rangers.

The Ibrox club may feel, following the 7-0 victory over an embarrassing Hibernian side on Saturday, as if they will continue to be impregnable. Rangers' squad is stronger than it has been all season and a talisman has recovered his fitness. Ally McCoist, an invertebrate soarer against Celtic, is free of his calf strain, even if he must start tonight's Old Firm game on the substitutes' bench.

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, however, recognises that Celtic now present a higher order of challenge than at any stage in his club's seven-season domination of the premier division. Celtic have not recorded a victory in an Old Firm match at New

Year since 1988, but that is hardly likely to prey on the players' minds after the past few months spent charting fresh territory.

Tommy Burns' team, after years of dejection, have restored Celtic's reputation for flair and consistency. It only remains to be seen whether the improved image is sturdy enough to remain undented by an encounter with Rangers. Should Celtic win, they will have two games in hand, and the potential to establish a one-point lead over their greatest rivals.

Burns said, "knows the importance of that achievement to our supporters, but we cannot become obsessed. Some people want to think that if we do not stop Rangers, Celtic will fall away, but that is nonsense. The important thing for us is to ensure that Celtic get stronger year by year and that will happen."

He believes, all the same, that his team are growing in the mental hardness required to challenge Rangers. Mulling over his assortment of experienced men, such as Paul McStay, foreign signings, like Andreas Thom, and youngsters, of whom Simon Donnelly is the most exciting example, Burns insisted:

"They all want their turn at glory, but it won't just come to them. They've got to take it."

Against a formidable and skilled Rangers side, it is Celtic's capacity to seize the moment that provides the unknown, and intriguing, quantity in the match.

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"They all want their turn at glory, but it won't just come to them. They've got to take it."

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Ally McCoist, often the scourge of Celtic, may be on the Rangers bench tonight



Havelange says Africa will host World Cup in 2006

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JOÃO Havelange, the president of Fifa, football's world governing body, wants the 2006 World Cup finals to be played in Africa.

"It [African football] is the football of the future," Havelange said. "To reward the progress that has been made, I will tell Nelson Mandela [the South African President] on January 10 that the 2006 World Cup will be on their continent. Africa has the right to hold its first World Cup."

Havelange is due in South Africa next week ahead of the African nations' cup, which begins there on January 13. The Fifa president indicated on a trip to Moscow in November that the idea of continents taking turns to host the World Cup was undergoing "active discussion" and would mean the finals would be held in Asia in 2002, in Africa in 2006, in South America four years later and then North America.

The next finals are to be held in France in 1998 and Fifa will decide on June 1 whether the 2002 World Cup will be held in Japan or South Korea. The decision to award the 2006 finals will not be taken for another four years and is a matter for the whole of Fifa, not just its president.

In international circles, Havelange's comments may be seen as part of his power struggle with Lennart Johansson, the president of Uefa, the European governing body, and a declared candidate for the Fifa presidency at the next elections in 1998. Havelange said in 1994 that his sixth four-year term as Fifa president, ending in 1998, would be his last, but his stance has changed since then and he has openly suggested that he may stand again.

Havelange has also attracted controversy regarding a promise he reportedly made that the 1997 world youth championship would be transferred to Nigeria from Malaysia. It has prompted Johansson to remind the parties that no decision had been taken on any transfer and that if there were to be a change it would have to be referred back to the appropriate committee for discussion.

When the matter came before Fifa's executive committee in Paris three weeks ago, it voted to stay with Malaysia, despite Havelange's earlier pledge.

Fifa plans to move goalposts in bid to entertain

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Fifa proposes to move the goalposts farther apart and raise the crossbar to make football more attractive. Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of the game's world governing body, said yesterday.

"The guardians of the rules [the International Board] are in agreement to widen the goals by the diameter of two balls, around 50 centimetres (19.685in), and to increase the height by the diameter of one ball," he said.

Blatter added that the board would reach a formal decision in March and this would be followed by a trial period. However, no change will be introduced before the 1998 World Cup with the current rules, Blatter said.

The future of basketball-style time-outs, an innovation already being tested, looks uncertain. "Footballers are so conservative," Blatter said, "so the mood in favour of time-outs is currently under 50 per cent. The matter is not quite finished with, but the trend is negative."

Blatter denied that Fifa saw time-outs as a way of introducing more time for television advertising. "The idea came from the trainers. They complained they had too little say, sitting on the bench."

The 1998 World Cup will be marked by one change, however. "We will certainly have better-trained, younger, faster and fitter referees," Blatter said.

Barcelona host a top-of-the-table derby against Espanol tomorrow as the Spanish league resumes after the Christmas break. Johan Cruyff's side, lying third in the league, will be hoping to rediscover some form after losing to Atletico Madrid and Sevilla last month.

Cruyff's side will be reinforced by Carlos Busquets, the goalkeeper who returns after a month out injured. Espanol are in second place in the table and a 400-strong police contingent will be on duty at the match.

Atletico lead the table with 42 points, to Espanol's 38 and Barcelona's 35, after 18 games. They will be in action tonight at Salamanca. Real Madrid, meanwhile, entertain Real Valladolid without Michael Laudrup, the Denmark international, and Juan Eduardo Esnalder, the Argentinian, who both picked up injuries in training on Monday.

Prunier falls victim to United's new year hangover

By PETER BALL

THE fall-out from Manchester United's 4-1 defeat at White Hart Lane on New Year's Day claimed one immediate victim. William Prunier, the French international defender, will return to France when his loan period ends today.

There had been suggestions that United might sign Prunier, who is a free agent after buying his contract from Bordeaux. Although Prunier could not take all the blame for the defensive uncertainty on view at Tottenham, Peter Schmeichel's injury doing nothing for United's security, his performance persuaded Alex Ferguson, the United manager,

that he needed to extend his trial period. Prunier was unwilling to continue on that basis.

"It's very difficult for him to come into the English game and not speak the language," Ferguson said. "We needed a bit more time to assess him, but he's got one or two other options, so it was best to let him go."

United's injury problems — they have four central defenders unavailable — led to Prunier being pressed into service at the weekend after impressing in the reserves. At the time, Ferguson had said he and the player would discuss terms this week providing Prunier came through successfully, but, after a quiet start against Queens Park

Rangers on Saturday, he struggled against Sheringham and Armstrong on Monday.

His departure and the calf injury that led to Schmeichel's exit at half-time, however, leaves United even more stretched in defence. Schmeichel will miss Saturday's FA Cup third-round tie with Sunderland. Gary Pallister, Steve Bruce and Dennis Irwin are expected to be out for a further three weeks, while David May is four or five weeks from a comeback.

Prunier's failure, however, has not deterred Ferguson from looking abroad for another central defender. "We want to add to the squad and I'd like to think that something could

happen this week, although I doubt it," Ferguson said. "I am concentrating on strengthening the defence. We've been looking around for a while, but it is difficult to see anything in the English game, so we are looking in other places."

Howard Kendall is trying to make Niall Quinn his sixth signing in 22 days since taking over from Dave Bassett as manager of Sheffield United. Kendall will offer Manchester City £800,000 for Quinn, the price he paid Arsenal when he signed Quinn at Maine Road in 1990.

Quinn was set to move to Sporting Lisbon for £1 million last summer, but the move broke down. Since then, he has re-established himself as one of the key players in the Maine Road team and his sale, even with the club eager to make further economies, may not be well received by the supporters.

"Contrary to what some people believe, I haven't been looking to walk out on City," Quinn said yesterday. "If there's truth in this bid and the club is prepared to consider it, then I would look at it."

■ Nicky Butt, the Manchester United midfield player, appeared before magistrates in the city yesterday charged with assaulting a man in a Chinese restaurant. The case was adjourned and Butt, 20, was granted unconditional bail until January 23.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT
Today's hand is an example of the "dentist's coup".

Dealer East North-South game Rubber bridge

♦AQ10
VK10
A4
AK32
♦KJ73
8
Q103
+9875
+864
VAJ755
+5
+164

Contract: Six hearts by South.

East opened Three Diamonds, West raised to Five Diamonds in an attempt to shut out North, and North doubled. Whether South should remove North's double of Five Diamonds is debatable. In practice, South bid Five Hearts and North raised to Six Hearts.

Declarer won the diamond in dummy and, with the idea of playing the hand with shorter diamonds (ie West) for long trumps, came to hand with the ace of hearts and continued with a heart. There is a good case for playing East for trump length. West has jumped to Five Diamonds and is likely to have a singleton somewhere (hearts is the most likely spot — if he had had a black singleton he would probably have led it).

Anyway, after getting the trumps wrong, how should

declarer continue? He recovered well: he won the second round of hearts with the king, ruffed a diamond and finessed the nine of spades. Now he made the key play — he played ace and king of clubs (the "dentist's coup" extracting East's exit cards). Notice that if declarer exits with a heart before playing off the clubs, East can always exit with a club and force declarer to play a black suit from the table.

In the event, East ruffed the second club and exited with a diamond. Declarer ruffed and played off his remaining trumps. In coming down to three cards, West had to let a spade go and a spade finesse brought in three tricks in the suit for the contract.

■ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Hastings conquest

Stuart Conquest, who took an early lead in the Hastings Premier, was, in fact, born in Hastings. One of his best achievements was his first-round demolition of grandmaster Tony Miles in a game characterised by some extremely savage tactics.

White: Tony Miles

Black: Stuart Conquest

Hastings Premier

December 1995

Trompovsky Attack

1 d4 Nf6

2 c4 Bf5

3 e3 c5

4 Bb5 g6

5 c3 Nc6

6 Nf3 e5

7 Bc2 Be6

8 0-0 Nc5

9 Nbd2 Bc5

10 d5 Nc6

11 e4 Nf5

12 Nc3 Nc4

13 Nf3 Nc5

14 Nc3 Nc6

15 Nf5 Nc5

16 Nc3 Nc6

17 Nf5 Nc5

18 Nc3 Nc6

19 Nf5 Nc5

20 Nc3 Nc6

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25 Nf5 Nc5

26 Nc3 Nc6

27 Nf5 Nc5

28 Nc3 Nc6

29 Nf5 Nc5

30 Nc3 Nc6

31 Nf5 Nc5

32 Nc3 Nc6

33 Nf5 Nc5

White: Sergei Tiviakov

Black: Loek van Wely

Groningen. December 1995

Scandinavian Open

Sicilian Defence

White's sacrifice on move 21. Black could not take the rook on account of swif checkmate.

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Scandinavian Open

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Andrew soon back in the big time

Winnington Park welcome lucrative cup-tie with Wasps

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WINNINGTON PARK'S reward for making their way into the fifth round of rugby union's Pilkington Cup will be a lucrative tie with Wasps on January 27 — and this for a club whose players still pay their match subscriptions and whose efforts have carried the Cheshire club to joint-second place in the fifth division north of the Courage Clubs Championship.

The way forward in the long term for Park may be determined at a members' meeting on January 11; in the short term, their problem will be to "beg, borrow or steal", according to their president, Roy Palin, a temporary stand for what is likely to be the biggest crowd to be seen at their ground.

"We would have preferred someone like Leeds, in the hope of reaching the quarter-finals," Palin said. "but we are pleased it is Wasps because they play a similar type of rugby to us. We have a side geared to running rugby and our coach, Doug Hill, encourages all the players to express themselves."

Hill, once of Coventry and Moseley before playing rugby league for St Helens and Blackpool Borough, helped groom the young Dewi Morris at scrum half before Morris burst onto the international scene in 1988. Now Morris,

DRAW

FIFTH ROUND

West Hartlepool v Coventry, Bedfor v Bath, Newcastle v Harlequins, Nottinham v Gloucester, Leicester v Saracens, Winnington Park v Wasps. Matches to be played on January 27

"The poachers have been out with a vengeance around us," Palin said. "Clubs with money want to take advantage of players who have come through our mini and junior sections."

An average gate at Winnington Park would be around 300, although they packed in 1,000 for the fourth-round defeat of Lydney. Yet in rural Cheshire they are not short of space and Palin talked confidently of accommodating

Cardiff look forward to big crowd for final

CARDIFF hope that the first European cup final will produce a gate exceeding 20,000 on Sunday (David Hands writes). A sensible pricing policy and attractive visitors, in Toulouse, saw 5,000 tickets sold yesterday alone, when the Welsh Rugby Union opened after the Christmas break.

Prices of £10 and £5 for the Heineken Cup final represent good value, with Toulouse expected to bring at least 700 of their own supporters. The final is also a late opportunity for Cardiff players to impress a police escort from the pitch.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Strang spearheads Zimbabwe attack

BRYAN STRANG produced an outstanding bowling performance to take six for 20 in 18 overs as Zimbabwe bowled a New Zealand President's XI out for 111 at Victoria Park, Wanganui, yesterday. However, Zimbabwe struggled in reply and were 91 for six at the close. Only four players made double figures for the President's XI, with middle order batsman Stephen Lynch top-scoring with 30.

Strang took full advantage of a green wicket and, bowling at lively medium pace, took five for two in 29 balls in one spell after lunch. Zimbabwe ran into trouble early in their reply and the only resistance came from the experienced David Houghton and left-hander Sean Davies, who added 53 for the fourth wicket.

USC lift Rose Bowl

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Northwestern University's surprise season of success came to an end when they were beaten 41-32 by the University of Southern California (USC) in the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. USC trailed 32-31 with seven minutes left, but secured victory after an interception that enabled Delon Washington to score the crucial touchdown. Keyshawn Johnson, the USC receiver, set a Rose Bowl record with 12 catches for 216 yards and a touchdown. Brad Ofton, their quarterback, completed 29 of 44 passes for 391 yards and two touchdowns.

Gie provides impetus

CRICKET: The England Under-19 team made a successful start to their tour of Zimbabwe yesterday, winning a one-day match against a Zimbabwe Under-18 XI by two wickets at St John's College. The Yorkshire bowlers, Paul Hutchison (three for 26) and Gareth Batty (two for 25), restricted the home side to 162, only for England to make hard work of reaching this modest target, winning with ten balls to spare. Noel Gie, of Nottinghamshire, led them home with an unbeaten 41 containing two sixes and three fours.

Regan reinstated

BOXING: Robbie Regan, of Wales, was yesterday restored as the International Boxing Federation's interim flyweight champion. Regan, 27, knocked out Ferid Ben Jeddou, of Tunisia, last month to win the title and earn a crack at Danny Romero, of the United States, who had to put aside the crown because of serious facial injuries. The federation last week nominated another American, Mark Johnson, to meet Romero on February 2, but Romero says he can no longer make the eight-stone limit.

Fordham's bright start

DARTS: Andy Fordham, a semi-finalist 12 months ago, made a promising start to his Embassy world professional championship challenge at the Lakeside Country Club, Fimley Green, yesterday. Fordham, the No 2 seed, beat Chris Mason 3-0. Since the championship last year, Fordham has won the Norway Open, the British Match Play and the Isle of Man tournament and is a strong contender for the £36,000 first prize. Andy Jenkins, who beat Bruno Raes 3-0, will meet Fordham tonight.

Andrew soon back in the big time

Atherton falls to enemy behind the arras

MIDWEEK VIEW



SIMON BARNES

Perhaps we all have a Widmerpool: a figure who haunts our worst moments, who, by some strange powers of malice, is almost unconsciously capable of wreaking havoc in our lives. For it is never quite clear whether these people are there by coincidence, as catalysts for the process of malice, or whether they work the malice wilfully. Or both.

Widmerpool's clash with first-division opponents has all the magic of cup competition. The less-romantic inclining will be eager to see whether Newcastle, whose director of rugby — Rob Andrew — will be eligible to play, can upset a Harlequins team containing several of Andrew's former England colleagues.

These two clubs represent the changing face of rugby at the highest domestic level and the draw is exactly what ambitious Newcastle were seeking. Not only do they want quality opposition in the North East and Harlequins — against whom they played three cup-ties between 1978 and 1983 — offer such a prospect, with established players such as Will Carling, Jason Leonard and Jim Staines.

Bath, the cup-holders, travel to Wakefield, while Leicester entertain Saracens, a tie that offers them the chance to exact revenge for the unexpected league defeat they suffered at Soutgat in November. Another tantalising morsel will be the game at Goldington Road between Bedford, coached until recently by Mike Rafter, and Bristol, Rafter's former club.

Of more immediate concern to the leading clubs is the impact of the weather on league fixtures. Only yesterday were Bath able to start ironing out the recent ravages of winter on their Recreation Ground pitch. They are one of several clubs who have provisionally agreed to play a postponed game on January 13 — scheduled as an England training weekend.

They will have sympathy with Pontypridd, who have hinted at an extension to the season as their backlog of postponed league fixtures builds up. They have not played a Heineken League game since December 2.

In England's second innings, Warne was literally turning the ball square with Gooch behind his legs and took five wickets while Tim May, the off spinner, took the rest.

A year on, Atherton was facing a rather shaken West Indies side. This time, he needed a pitch that turned. Atkinson gave him one of the great snake-pits of Test match history, a pitch the West Indians hardly dared to dream of. England were dismissed for 147 and 89, with

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It is thanks to the Widmerpool Effect

South African cricket welcomes the Cape Coloured it once spurned

D'Oliveira remains on England's side

Simon Wilde meets a cricketer whose life is inextricably linked with images of a nation's history

Another day in South Africa, another peace made with the past. Basil D'Oliveira, whose life is inextricably linked with one of the darkest periods in his country's history, yesterday paid his first visit in 38 years to Newlands Cricket Ground, an arena which, in more civilised times, he would probably have regularly graced.

D'Oliveira was born only a few miles from the ground, at Bo-Kaap, in the shadow of Table Mountain, and played for St Augustine's, a local club, but his career — he was a talented all-rounder — was frustrated by apartheid. His club was forced to relocate under the infamous Group Areas Act and he had to emigrate to England to find fulfilment.

The United Cricket Board of South Africa (UCBSA), which is sensitive to these things, did not let yesterday's occasion go unmarked. D'Oliveira was the guest of honour at a lunch on the ground at which were present prominent figures from the South African government and, seemingly, most of the administrators of English cricket. Raymond Illingworth sat down to lunch in incongruous fashion, reflector sunglasses perched stubbornly upon his head. D'Oliveira was seated between Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Ali Bacher, the managing director of the UCBSA.

Also invited were several leading activists for multi-racial sport in the "old" South Africa, such as Sam Ramsamy, but there was nobody, apparently, representing the late John Vorster, the Prime Minister whose intransigent response to D'Oliveira's induction in the England team to tour his country in 1968-69 led to the abandonment of the tour and started South Africa's sports exile.

In his speech of welcome, Bacher perhaps overstated his case by describing D'Oliveira as "one of the most famous people in South Africa's non-racial society", for D'Oliveira has not returned to live in his native land since he left for England in 1960. Indeed, this visit, as a guide to a group of England supporters, is only his fourth time back.

Bacher said that South Africa regarded D'Oliveira as one of its greatest sporting sons. "Although we know you have affiliations with English cricket, and respect them, we also know that deep down we will always regard you as South African. Thank you for transforming this society."



Adams, the Cape Coloured who followed D'Oliveira in playing for St Augustine's, can enjoy a prominent role in South Africa's future

D'Oliveira was then presented with a tie and cuff-links by Kris Mackendrij, the president of the UCBSA, who, in doing so, said "welcome back to the soil that bred you".

D'Oliveira, looking youthful for his 64 years and characteristically wearing a Worcestershire blazer, was too overcome by emotion to respond publicly, but said later that he was surprised and pleased by the board's gesture. He said that it showed that finally "it is finished, it is all over now".

It was entirely appropriate that South Africa's team in this match should contain a Cape Coloured in Paul Adams, who, as chance would have it, also plays for the St Augustine's club. It had been hoped D'Oliveira could meet Nelson Mandela, the President of South Africa, but it proved difficult. Adams met Mandela at an airport base on Monday, the president saying that the teenager had "aroused South African national pride more words can say".

The last match D'Oliveira watched at Newlands was a Test match involving Australia in 1958. He watched the game from the small grass

verge that constituted the non-white areas of the ground. He never played in a match on the ground himself. Having moved to England, he appeared in the Lancashire leagues and for Worcestershire before playing 44 Test matches for England between 1966 and 1972.

D'Oliveira said that he had been greeted by many people on his visit. "All sorts of people have come up to me in the street and thanked me," he said. "Only the other day, I was sitting at a table at the Waterfront and a white man came up to me and said that he wanted to buy me a beer. I asked him why. 'Because you're Basil D'Oliveira, aren't you?' he said. 'I want to thank you for all you've done for us'."

As he spoke, the match resumed after lunch. Donald bowled his first over and promptly took the wickets of Thorpe and Hick. D'Oliveira became enraptured by the South African's wonderful fast bowling skills. Suddenly a thought flashed across the mind. "You're not supporting them these days, are you?"

He smiled. "No, no," he said. "I'm still on England's side."



D'Oliveira, the England player, coaching youngsters in Cape Town in 1966

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Sri Lanka ready to risk Muralitharan

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

SRI LANKA are likely to play their controversial off-spinner, Muttiah Muralitharan, in the World Series Cup game against the West Indies in Hobart today, even though he was not-balled seven times in the competition in Adelaide last month, but West Indies are improving and are desperate for a win to remain in contention for the finals.

"We've started to play a bit better," their coach, Andy Roberts, said. "but we must get back into a winning mode."

Darrell Hair, the Australian umpire who called Muralitharan from the

bowler's end at Melbourne, will not be on duty in Tasmania and Dulake Mendis, the team manager, said yesterday that the bowler was likely to play.

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SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	Last snow (°C)
ANDORRA Soldeu	20	80 good powder (Good piste sailing but flat light)	far	snow	-4
AUSTRIA Lech	60	good powder (Excellent strong avalanche risk high up)	sun	-2	1/1
Obergurgl	55	good powder (Excellent strong conditions: no pauses)	far	fine	-5
St Anton	20	170 good varied (Most piste good and being well maintained)	far	-2	1/1
Schladming	50	60 good powder (Great strong continuous on majority of pistes)	cloud	3	1/1
Söll	25	60 good varied (Great sailing throughout skil-well region)	open	0	1/1
FRANCE Alpe d'Huez	90	220 good heavy (Very good piste sailing, avalanche risk high up)	fog	0	2/1
Les Arcs	40	185 good powder (Good powder above 1,800m, slightly heavy below)	cloud	-1	2/1
Avaloaz	80	110 good varied (Generally good but lower level resorts have wet snow)	far	snow	-2
Flaine	20	130 good heavy (Good sailing but visibility poor, 1,100ft open)	far	1	2/1
Tignes	100	140 good powder (Excellent sailing but dreadful visibility: runs quiet)	cloud	1	2/1
Val d'Isere	100	180 good powder (Poor visibility in most areas: avalanche danger)	cloud	3	2/1
ITALY Cervinia	50	250 good powder (Excellent sailing continues, fresh snow falling)	cloud	2	2/1
SWITZERLAND C Montana	20	165 good varied (Good piste sailing, visibility poor)	far	1	2/1
Müren	35	130 good powder (Great snow and sailing but very poor visibility)	cloud	-1	2/1

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes, U - upper; art - artificial

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 40

YESUM
(a) US dialect contraction of *yes ma'am*, a polite form of assent addressed to a woman. William Faulkner. *Go down, Moses*. 1942: "Miss Sophie said neighbor just a half day's ride apart ought not to go so long as Uncle Buck, and Uncle Buck said **Yessum**."

ZEDONK
(a) The offspring of a male zebra and a female donkey. The offspring of the converse parentage is a *zonkey*. A portmanteau word from *zebra* + *donkey*. Donkeys crossed with zebras, sometimes called *zedonks*, have been used like mules as pack animals.

SPOOKST
(a) A spookalist or medium. A whimsical formation from *spook* a ghost.

"A man whom I knew well was taken suddenly and seriously ill, and his relations, who were enthusiastic spookists, telegraphed for the celebrated clairvoyant Mrs Endor."

SUCUPIRA
(a) A dark brown hardwood obtained from trees of the genus *Bowdichia* or *Dipterocarpus*, both native to South America, especially Brazil, and belonging to the family Leguminosae. A Portuguese adaptation of its Tupi name. "The colossal Ceiba, para nuts and sucupira with their blue flowers high in the sun."

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SPORT

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 3 1996

Inept batting after Atherton's early departure gives South Africa control

Donald derails England at speed

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN CAPE TOWN

CAPE TOWN (first day of five, England won test): South Africa, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 109 runs behind England

MICHAEL ATHERTON did everything right yesterday morning, but only until this decisive final Test began. He had made a positive selection and he had won the toss, but the England captain was then out for nought and, as tends to happen whenever he fails, his team simply withered away.

England will not be despairing just yet, for this is a fickle Newlands pitch that is unlikely to last five days. South Africa, having lost two wickets to the indefatigable Dominic Cork in the final hour, will be aware that they still have much to do. All that can be said with confidence after the opening day is that this series is now most unlikely to end drawn.

Andy Atkinson's pitch, almost bare and widely cracked, will assuredly deteriorate in the coming days. Indeed, Robi Smith, who sustained England for four hours, said later that he believed 170 would be a difficult fourth-innings target. But it was not, yesterday, a

surface on which it was forgivable to be bowled out for 153, even when confronted by Allan Donald at his most formidable.

It was, perhaps, a hundred runs short of par. Apart from a rare and welcome burst of productivity from the previously plagued No 3 position, in which Smith, his notorious nerves benefiting from the promotion, made a valiant 66, England batted limply when, with only five specialists, they could least afford it.

Donald's five wickets, com-

D'Oliveira returns 42

Muralitharan plays 42

pensation for his scant rewards in Port Elizabeth, included Atherton and the vital elimination of Graham Thorpe and Graeme Hick in a single over after lunch. Paul Adams took the last two wickets and caused enough problems through turn and variation to suggest there will be more to come. Smith was no nearer picking his chinaman when he departed, having played on to one, than he had been at the start of his innings.

The problems of predicting England's spin bowling are concerned more with its quality. Richard Illingworth, who is nothing if not dependable, was duly ruled unfit yesterday morning and Mike Watkinson, who deputises, cannot afford the generosity of length he has shown so far on this tour. England have too few runs with which to bargain, a fate that was their destiny as soon as Atherton fell without a run on the board.

Atherton's wish for the national anthem to be played before a game was again answered, this time with the teams lined up in blazers on their balconies, many of them singing. It was not, however, inspirational and six fraught maiden overs preceded Atherton's calamitous end, going back to Donald and angling the ball low to third slip.

The field for Donald, which at one stage had nobody in front of square, was a strange contrast with the ambivalent fields for Pollock, but the advent of McMillan, gaining swing and extra bounce, persuaded Cronje to attack. Stewart, bemused as he hates to be, was bowled off the inside edge as he pushed away from his body and England, already in disarray, were now faced with a gladiatorial roar for the introduction of Adams.

The gates had been closed before play began and, for many of the locals, Adams was the principal draw. In his third over, he demonstrated the influence he might have on the match, leaving Smith helplessly squared up with a ball that pitched on middle stump and turned past off. Somehow, Smith and Thorpe saw it through to lunch, but in the second over of the afternoon, the innings was undermined.

Donald's first ball of the session was angled across the left-handed Thorpe, whose drive was loose and presumptuous, a careless end to a promising innings. McMillan pocketed it at second slip, and caught another three balls later, when Hick, driven back by a short one, offered a drooping bat, an old habit he had shunned on this tour.

Four of the five selected batsmen had thus mustered 35 runs between them. This was not an endorsement of the decision to shorten the batting, but neither did it condemn it, for a management cannot legislate for its best players performing so ineptly. Jack Russell enjoys a scrap, but even he must have hoped to enter the fray at something more amenable than 60 for four.

Russell fussed protectively for 80 minutes, eyes hawkishly fixed on every ball, but he had scored only nine of a stand of 43 when he nibbled fatally outside off stump to give McMillan his third catch and Pollock his first wicket. In his next over, Pollock struck again, convincing umpire Or-



Hick turns away in despair, dismissed by a delighted Donald at Newlands yesterday. Photograph: Derek Cox

SIMON BARNES 41

ATHERTON FALLS
VICTIM TO
AN OLD ENEMY

**Stewart and
Ford link
to form new
grand prix
racing team**

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN DETROIT

JACKIE STEWART, Britain's most successful Formula One motor racing driver, will end his self-imposed 22-year exile from the sport here tomorrow. Stewart, 57, will return to grand prix racing at the head of his own team in 1997 armed with a five-year plan to challenge Williams, Benetton and Ferrari for the leading prizes.

The announcement will be made at the North American Motor Show here as part of a coup for the Ford Motor Company, a long-term associate of Stewart. Ford has slipped into the competitive wilderness since they won the constructors' championship with Benetton and Michael Schumacher in 1994, but its decision to give Stewart's new team an exclusive five-year supply of its most advanced engines suggests it is confident this is the way back.

Stewart won 27 grands prix in 99 races on his way to three world championships in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Only Nigel Mansell, with 31 wins, has scored more victories for Britain, but Stewart attained his total in far fewer starts. A fierce campaigner for track safety, he retired one race short of his century in 1973 after the death of his team-mate, Francois Cevert.

"I thought I would have five years to be Jackie Stewart, ex-racing driver, world champion, autograph signer, motor show visitor and personality," Stewart said. "But companies like Ford started to use me fairly substantially because I was a reality. My name got bigger and the reaction was getting bigger. I have not missed Formula One. Now, though, with the involvement of Ford, I am in a position where I believe there is a good chance to succeed. It will be good to be back."

Stewart has become a millionaire since his retirement. He has stayed involved in racing through his son Paul and the company Paul Stewart Racing, which was successful in the junior formulas.

Ford's involvement with Stewart Grand Prix, as the company will be known, may sound the death knell for Sauber, the Swiss team, who will lose the American company's engines as a result.

Stewart's challenge, page 38

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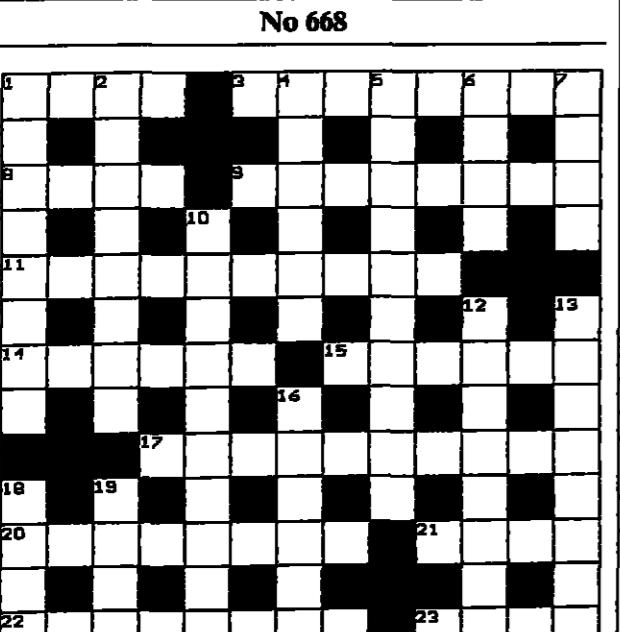
Wednesday, Thursday & Fridays 10am to 7pm.

Sale ends Saturday January 27th 9am to 7pm.

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NO 668

ACROSS
1 Make beer, tea (4)
3 Puffed out (hair, sleeve) (8)
4 Drug; stupid person (4)
5 Time fixed to start action (4-4)
11 Et cetera (3,2,5)
14 Missive (6)
15 Remove impurities (6)
16 Books other than stories (3-7)
20 Come you back here (Kipling) (8)
21 Serve at table (4)
22 Weak-heeled Greek hero (8)

SOLUTION TO NO 667
ACROSS: 1 Both 3 Castled 8 Skilles 9 Admit 10 Clown 11 Oppugns 13 Technique 17 Esparto 19 Argot 20 Dig up 22 Immoral 23 Penance 24 Tyro
DOWN: 1 Biscet 2 Thin on top 3 Cut down to size 4 Stamp 5 Lam 6 Deter 7 Clinic 12 Glegnary 14 Qualms 15 Held up 16 Ocello 18 Ripon 21 Gen

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 668

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND
ACROSS: 8 Avarice 9 Liana 10 Orgastic 11 Ark 12 Silas 14 Teacher 15 Gourmet 17 Dingo 19 Orc 20 Laughable 22 Skein 23 Estella
DOWN: 1 Famous 2 Haig 3 Disassembling 4 Septet 5 Black-and-white 6 Marathon 7 Walker 13 Launcher 15 Grouse 16 Touper 18 One-way 21 Bell

The names of the winners of The Times Two Crossword competition No 668 will be published next Wednesday.



Milne: backs move



Harford: injury worry

not fair on the paying public,"

Howard Wilkinson, the

Leeds United manager and

chairman of the LMA, ex-

pressed his concern at the

number of matches being

played after his team's 0-0

draw with Blackburn Rovers

on Monday. He said: "The

public wants some games at

Christmas and I'd give them

one on Boxing Day and New

Year's Day, but we need some

sort of break."

"If my players had not

played for a week before the

Blackburn game, I would

have had to hold up my hand

and say it was eminently

fit to play," he said.

Wilkinson added: "The Cup

means so much to everybody

involved, yet many clubs will

not be prepared property as

they won't risk some of their

players in training. At least

let's try it. If it is not successful,

we can revert back to the

old system."

A Premier League spokes-

man said: "We will consider

any proposals which will

serve the best interests of

football."

Old Firm preview, page 40
Premier casualty, page 40

£5,000
of lottery
tickets

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of lottery